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DH

DECCAN HERALD

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City call centre traps US, Canadian citizens in 'digital arrest'

School dropouts turn 'US agents' in elaborate con; 16 in police custody

BENGALURU, DHNS

The city police have busted a call centre operating from the upscale HSR Layout that conned American and Canadian citizens through a digital arrest scam.

The accused posed as law enforcement officials, accusing victims of money laundering, drug trafficking, and other crimes.

They then forced the victims into 'digital arrest' — a term not recognised in law — by keeping them under 24-hour video surveillance.

On October 7, police raided Cybits Solutions Pvt Ltd in HSR Layout, Sector 1. During the operation, the kingpin, who got a tip-off, asked employees to log out of the servers. The management could monitor the centre remotely.

Of the 25 employees found on site, police arrested 16 — all Class 10 or 12 dropouts recruited three months ago — and issued notices to the rest, who were still in training. Six suspects remain absconding.

Fluent in American English, the employees used prepared

A fake US Supreme Court order that the suspects used to deceive the victims. (R) A fake ID used by the suspects. BENGALURU POLICE

scripts to impersonate officials from the "US Federal Investigation Service" and the "US Postal Service Investigation Section". They sent forged United States Supreme Court orders and arrest warrants to victims and demanded money online to "settle" the cases.

"We suspect the scam is worth crores as the proceeds were received in US dollars," a senior officer told *DH*.

> "Through a live server, the employees accused victims of crimes, displayed fake police IDs, and extorted money in exchange for avoiding arrest. We suspect the scam is worth crores as the proceeds were received in US dollars.
> **POLICE OFFICERS**

The call centre operated from a rented building, hiring staff by word of mouth to ensure trust. Employees were paid Rs 22,000 in cash and earned up to Rs 1 lakh in incentives depending on the amount extracted from victims.

"Through a live server, the employees accused victims of crimes, displayed fake police IDs, and extorted money in exchange for avoiding arrest," another officer said. The amounts were transferred to the company's wallets or bank accounts.

The suspects also posted fake job ads on WorkIndia, LinkedIn, and other websites, providing recruits with paid accommodation, food, and transport while restricting outside contact.

Police suspect multiple such centres exist.

"An examination of the systems revealed fake websites, online calling tools, and possible setups mimicking courts or agency offices," an officer said.

B'luru cops contact FBI

A senior police officer said the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had been informed and details on the victims were awaited.

Inventory seized

- Computer systems: **41**
- Script notebooks: **4**
- Mobile phones and IDs: **25**
- IP device, routers, modems: **9**
- Attendance registers: **2**

'Dirty and capitalist mentality': Reddy hits outs over BMTC row

Takes on Surya, Pai over 'No More BMTC' remark

BENGALURU, DHNS

Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Tuesday criticised MP Tejasvi Surya and former CFO of Infosys Mohandas Pai for displaying a "dirty and capitalist mentality" towards public transport users by calling for the dismantling of the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation's (BMTC) "monopoly".

The minister's response came during a press conference to address departmental matters and react to the duo's "No More BMTC" remarks made at a private mobility symposium recently.

Reddy alleged that both Surya and Pai, who he said have "no experience" of public transport, were founders or closely associated with a private employee transport company, suggesting a conflict of interest and an intent to profit from public services.

"It is shocking, dangerous, and destructive to say, 'No more BMTC,' 'No more monopoly' at a symposium, which has no public interest and operates solely on a rental, for-profit basis for factories and companies," Reddy said.

He questioned the "invisible hands" behind the company and claimed that such speeches at private forums "naturally speak negatively" to discredit the government system.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy at the press meet on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

The minister defended the BMTC as the "lifeblood of Bengaluru city", serving 48 lakh commuters daily, roughly one-third of the city's 1.44-crore population. He said public transport is a key pillar of the Welfare State and cannot be seen merely as a business where private operators run only profitable routes.

"No public transport system in the world is run for profit. It is a service provided to the public through government incentives," he said, adding that the "dirty and capitalist mentality" was an insult to workers and employees, and the poor, vulnerable, and middle-class commuters who depend on BMTC buses.

Citing data, Reddy highlighted Karnataka's lead in bus density among metro cities.

Impact of buses

Karnataka has 3.81 buses per 1,000 people, much higher than Tamil Nadu's 2.70 and Maharashtra's 1.32. The national average stands at 1.2.

He also highlighted the flagship Shakti free bus travel scheme for women, citing a study that showed a 23% rise in female employees in Bengaluru and 21% in Hubballi-Dharwad. Around 19% of women have also begun working outside their homes, contributing to higher per capita income in the state.

THE FINE PRINT

Institution	Total buses	Daily commuters (in lakh)
BMTC, Bengaluru	**7,067 (e-buses: 1,799)**	**48**
MTC, Chennai	3,651 (e-buses: 230)	34
BEST, Mumbai	**3,794 (e-buses: 1,121)**	**25**
DTC, Delhi	3,222 (e-buses: 2,526)	24
Kolkata	**750**	**6**

Massive traffic jam on ORR after BMTC bus breaks down

Hours-long gridlock; white-topping work makes it worse

BENGALURU, DHNS

Traffic came to a standstill along the Silk Board Junction-KR Puram stretch of the Outer Ring Road (ORR) for over four hours on Tuesday evening after a BMTC bus broke down near a busy intersection, severely affecting thousands of office-goers returning home.

Vehicular movement was already slow due to the closure of the service road and ongoing white-topping work on Panathur Road.

The situation worsened around 4.30 pm when the BMTC bus broke down on the down ramp near RMZ Ecospace Tech Park in Bellandur towards Agara, bringing traffic to a standstill.

"A crane was deployed, but it couldn't pull the bus forward because its steering was jammed. After much struggle, it was finally pulled back and moved to the side," Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), told *DH*.

He said white-topping on Panathur Road — a crucial link — had diverted traffic to the Varthur-Marathahalli stretch.

The road was closed on October 6, and work is expected to take another 20 days, he added. "Congestion has already been severe for the last few days due to the white-topping. This incident created a cascading effect," he said.

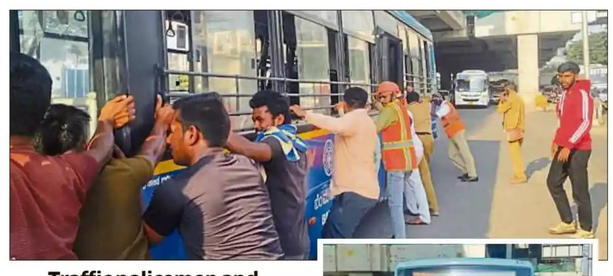
While police said traffic along the ORR was largely restored around 7.30 pm, slow vehicular movement continued for some more time.

Varun Rao, an engineer, said the ITPL-Hoodi-Graphite India-Brookefield Road, along with KTPO-Graphite-Kundalahalli Gate roads, were jammed from ITPL itself.

The mandatory work-from-office requirement only added to the congestion.

"Looks like everyone came to the office today to cover the WFO quota before Deepawali week. I haven't seen this traffic from Hoodi to Graphite junction before not even during heavy rains," he wrote on X.

According to Krishna Kumar Gowda of the Greater Bengaluru IT and Companies Associations, two more vehicles, including a school bus, broke down in Bellandur, worsening the situation.



Traffic policemen and passersby pull the electric bus to the side of the Outer Ring Road at Bellandur on Tuesday. PHOTOS: BTP

The bus broke down while plying towards Agara.

Breakdown of non-AC e-bus

The trigger for the massive traffic congestion along the ORR appears to be the breakdown of a non-air-conditioned electric bus operated by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC).

Unlike diesel buses, the BMTC procures electric vehicles under a wet lease model, paying the manufacturer on a per-kilometre basis. The manufacturer is also responsible for bus maintenance and driver deployment.

The buses have come under the scanner for sudden braking, rude drivers and poor ride quality.

Spl team to probe hoax threats

BENGALURU, DHNS: Following an increasing number of hoax bomb threats to schools and other institutions, authorities have formed a special team to investigate the cases and trace the culprits.

The team, headed by C Vamsi Krishna, Joint Commissioner of Police (West), includes a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), an Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), and other officers.

At present, 34 cases of hoax threats are registered across the city and are being probed by the team.

"The team is in constant contact with counterparts in other states for a coordinated effort," a senior police officer told *DH*. "Investigators have found that the suspects used Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and temporary email domains to conceal their locations."

Anti-human trafficking workshop for RPF personnel

BENGALURU, DHNS

A workshop on anti-human trafficking was organised in association with the National Commission for Women (NCW) and the Railway Protection Force (RPF) to train personnel in preventing, detecting, and responding to trafficking cases.

After inaugurating the event, V Sommanna, Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti, said recommendations had been made to the Railway Ministry to appoint local persons at railway stations for better management of commuters.

He said precautionary measures had been taken against persons consuming alcohol and creating ruckus at stations, and such incidents had significantly reduced.

NCW Chairperson Vijaya K Rahatkar said that following a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Railways and the NCW, such workshops were being organised.

Minister V Somanna in conversation with RPF personnel during the workshop on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

The three Ps

Vijaya said prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership were the core principles for effectively combating human trafficking.

RPF personnel, station masters, ticket examiners, GRP officials, and representatives of NGOs working in the field of anti-human trafficking participated in the programme.

OC not needed for buildings on 1,200-sqft plots

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government on Tuesday issued an order exempting certain small residential buildings within the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) from the requirement of obtaining an Occupancy Certificate (OC).

Under the new policy, buildings on plots measuring up to 1,200 sqft (approximately 30×40 ft) and built up to ground + 2 floors or stilt + 3 floors will not require an OC before occupation. The exemption, however, applies only to buildings with approved plans that comply with building and town planning norms.

The government invoked its powers under Section 241(7) of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, to notify the category of buildings exempted from OC requirements.

Cycle repairer turns 'Baba'; steals gold worth Rs 53 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS: A cycle repair shop owner, who posed as a holy man to dupe families of their gold ornaments under the pretext of performing special rituals, has been arrested by the Hulimavu police.

Dadapeer

The accused 'Baba', Dadapeer, 49, a resident of Kolar, targeted middle-class families in Bengaluru and other cities, claiming he could drive away evil forces and resolve domestic problems through rituals.

After gaining the victims' trust, he would ask them to bring their jewellery for a 'special puja'.

During the ritual, he would place the ornaments in a box, sprinkle turmeric and flowers on it, and ask the family members to step outside, saying he needed to perform the ritual alone. He would then flee with the valuables, instructing the victims not to open the box for 21 days.

Police said Dadapeer approached families from different communities, altering his dress and manner of speech to match their faith.

Investigations also revealed that he had three wives, 10 children, and multiple extramarital relationships.

With his arrest, police have solved at least three cases and recovered gold ornaments worth Rs 53 lakh. They suspect he may have carried out similar offences in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

Drug bust in E-City

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Electronics City police have arrested two foreign nationals for allegedly peddling drugs and seized cocaine and MDMA worth Rs 2.15 crore from them.

The arrested have been identified as Okke Chinedu Samuel, 34, and Kwikiriza Topista, 27. The police said their nationality and place of residence are being verified.

According to officials, on October 8, the police received a tip-off about a person selling narcotic substances in an open area at Mahalakshmi Layout, Phase 1, in Electronics City.

Based on the information, a team apprehended one suspect, who allegedly confessed to selling MDMA crystals and cocaine to make quick money. He also revealed that another foreign national and a foreigner woman were assisting him.

The second suspect was arrested, while the third accomplice is absconding.

Empowering women workers, one light at a time

BENGALURU, DHNS: '#Be Polite', in collaboration with NGO Sauramandala Foundation and The Good City, will host a fundraiser pickleball tournament at Gorally, Depot-18, Jayamahal, on Saturday between 11 am and 4 pm.

Conceptualised by architect Aakarsh Shamanur in 2017, #BePolite aims to provide solar-powered lights to women entrepreneurs in underserved communities.

This year, the initiative seeks to equip at least 100 women street vendors in Meghalaya with solar-powered lights, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In previous crowdfunding campaigns, particularly during Deepavali, Aakarsh provided solar-powered lights to over 500 women street vendors across several Indian cities.

The idea took shape when Aakarsh noted that street vendors — estimated at 10 million nationwide, according to WIEGO — often lacked access to basic infrastructure. With poor lighting posing challenges during evening hours, he designed a solar-powered light integrated with an umbrella and mobile-charging facility.

The initiative has since helped women vendors work safely, earn customer trust, and extend working hours, leading to higher incomes.

Contact details

Those wishing to support the campaign can register as players.

Contact Senthur Krithik at 9591928188, contribute through crowdfunding (link: https://milaap.org/fundraisers/support-women-street-vendors-in-meghalaya), or share the campaign on social media.

Contact Aakarsh Shamanur at 9606677223 or email: bepolite.city@gmail.com. Socials: @bepolite_city.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE

From fading charm to vibrant hub: Ulsoor Lake's revival plan

SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

A large-scale rejuvenation of Ulsoor Lake is under way to restore it as a vibrant public space.

Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad said the government has sanctioned Rs 80 crore for the project, with Rs 20 crore allocated in the first phase.

"The lake has not been desilted in over 40 years, which is a long time for any water body," Arshad told *DH*. "If desilting is not done regularly, water volume drops, biodiversity declines, and the foul odour increases. With proper desilting and ecological measures, the lake can be restored and the stench eliminated."

Ulsoor Lake makeover aims for cleaner water, stronger ecology, and better public spaces. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

Sustainable masterplan

The three-phase project, expected to be completed within a year, has onboarded RSP Design Consultants and Prestige Group as design and construction partners to ensure sustainability at every stage.

The rejuvenated lake will serve as a community hub with shaded walkways, decks, low-glare lighting to curb light pollution, and a modern play area for children.

A dedicated kalyani will enable safe idol immersion during festivals and double as an amphitheatre for cultural events.

Plans include a small library, art installations, and a laser show on the lake's central island.

Citizen participation forms a key part of the initiative.

Citizens collective 'Friends of the Lake', educational signage, and citizen-science kiosks will enable residents to monitor water quality and maintain floating wetlands.

Arshad said that no existing trees will be cut, and more native species will be planted to attract birds, butterflies, and pollinators.

If executed as planned, Ulsoor Lake will feature cleaner water, stronger biodiversity, improved flood control, and a welcoming public environment.

Key interventions

- **Bund & walkway upgrades:** Gabion-reinforced bunds, and an eight-metre pedestrian path forming a continuous circuit around the lake.
- **Ecological restoration:** Native plantings, floating wetlands, and aerators to enhance biodiversity and filtration.
- **Water management:** Desilting, sewage interception, and stormwater buffering.
- **Climate resilience:** Permeable surfaces and recharge zones for sustainable hydrology.
- **Monitoring systems:** Sensors to track water quality and siltation for data-driven upkeep.

Bengaluru Wednesday, October 15, 2025 Pages 20 Vol 78 No 285 ₹7

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DH

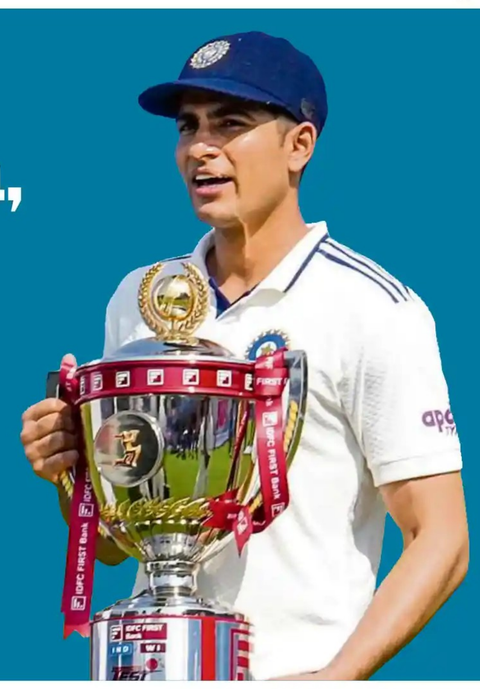
DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India triumph, but cracks emerge

In 2-0 sweep of Windies, Gill & Co get a reality check

Page 15



Bihar BJP list: Speaker among 16 dropped

Party releases 71 names, including 9 women

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BJP on Tuesday released its first list of 71 candidates, dropping as many as 16 faces to counter anti-incumbency. The most prominent among them is Bihar Assembly Speaker Nand Kishore, who had been representing the Patna Sahib seat since 2010.

In the list, which has nine women candidates, the party has fielded former Union Minister Ramkirpal Yadav from the Danapur seat, Deputy CMs Samrat Chaudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha, who are both MLCs, as well as former deputy CM Renu Devi.

Chaudhary will contest from Tarapu, a seat that his mother had held. Chaudhary last won an Assembly election in 2010. Vijay Sinha has been fielded from Lakhisarai, while Renu Devi has been fielded from Bettiah. Senior party leader Mangal Pandey will contest from Siwan.

In Patnasahib, where the BJP has dropped Speaker Nand Kishore, it has fielded Ratnesh Kushwaha. It has fielded Prem Kumar from Gaya, former Dy CM Tarkishore Prasad from Katihar, and Alok Ranjan Jha from Saharsa.

The list comes amid a tussle in the NDA. While the Chirag Paswan-led Lok Janshakti Party managed to bag 29 seats, other NDA partners including Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samta Party and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam were unhappy.

▸ Bihar, Page 7

BIHAR VOTES

Suspense over I.N.D.I.A list

Suspense over seat-sharing arrangements in I.N.D.I.A bloc continued with parties now hoping to announce the final deal on Wednesday morning, as the deadline for filing nominations for the first phase of Bihar Assembly election is fast approaching.

Details on Page 11

AP bags $15 bn Google project with Rs 22k-cr goodies

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Visakhapatnam, also known as Vizag, has bagged Google's massive $15 billion (approximately Rs 1,25,000 crore) AI data centre project, an impressive feat for the city that is not a traditional data centre hub like Mumbai and Chennai.

How did the Andhra Pradesh government led by Chandrababu Naidu pull this off? The answer: 1) Vizag's strategic position as a coastal city capable of hosting subsea cable networks came in handy; 2) the government dangled a slew of incentives.

A crucial factor behind the success was an unprecedented incentive package worth Rs 22,002 crore. The package includes power tariff subsidies, exemptions on electricity duty and transmission charges.

Additional benefits comprise 100% reimbursement of Net SGST accrued to the state, complete waiver of stamp duty and registration fees, capital subsidies and land allotments at a 25% discounted value.

▸ Vizag, Page 7
Related reports on Page 14

MASSIVE DEAL

- Package includes power tariff subsidies, exemptions on electricity duty, transmission charges and cross-subsidy charges
- Govt also assured access to renewable and carbon-free energy
- Proposal submitted to Andhra govt on August 22, cleared on Oct 9

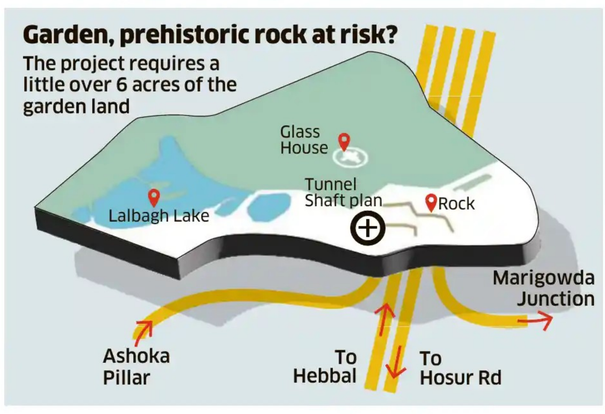
10-lane tunnel to run under Lalbagh: DPR

2 lanes to pass near lake, 2 under rock

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

A total of 10 lanes — similar to those on an expressway — have been proposed to be built about 50 to 100 feet beneath the Lalbagh Botanical Garden as part of the 16.5-km North–South vehicular tunnel, according to the detailed project report (DPR).



This is expected to pose a serious threat to the garden, which is not just an ecologically sensitive zone but also considered a jewel of Bengaluru.

While two lanes — proposed as an entry ramp from Ashoka Pillar — will pass close to the lake before joining the main six-lane tunnel towards Hebbal, another two-lane ramp — stretching 1.1 km — will pass directly beneath the 3-billion-year-old rock formation inside Lalbagh before exiting just ahead of the congested traffic signal at Marigowda Junction on Siddapura Road.

In all, the project requires 2.56 lakh square feet of land (a little more than six acres). The plan also includes the construction of a shaft within the premises of Lalbagh (next to the rock) to lower the tunnel boring machine (TBM), which will travel for a length of 700 metres just below the garden.

▸ Lalbagh, Page 7

20 passengers burnt alive as bus catches fire in Jaisalmer

JAISALMER, PTI: Twenty passengers were burnt alive and 16 were critically injured when a private bus travelling from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur caught fire on Tuesday, police said.

Smoke began emerging from the rear of the bus. The driver stopped the bus on the roadside, but within moments, the flames engulfed the vehicle.

Details on Page 10

Infosys bags over Rs 14,100-crore NHS contract

BENGALURU, DHNS: IT services firm Infosys has won a contract worth over Rs 14,100 crore from the NHS Business Services Authority to deliver the Future NHS Workforce Solution.

It will develop a data-driven workforce management solution to replace the Electronic Staff Record system, and the new platform will continue to manage payroll for 1.9 million NHS employees in England and Wales.

Details on Page 14

Why are roads so bad, asks Kiran; do CSR work in your area, tells minister

BENGALURU, DHNS: Industries Minister M B Patil rebuked Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw for flagging bad infrastructure in Bengaluru, and asked her to "take up some work under corporate social responsibility (CSR)" in her neighbourhood.

Patil was reacting to a tweet by Kiran on bad roads and garbage. She said an overseas business visitor to the Biocon Park asked her why the roads were bad and littered with garbage.

Kiran Mazumdar

Minister M B Patil

"Why are the roads so bad and why is there so much garbage around? Doesn't the Government want to support investment?" Shaw said in her post on X (formerly Twitter), which also reflects the growing frustration among most citizens too.

▸ Kiran, Page 7

4-hour traffic holdup on ORR

Traffic was paralysed along the Silk Board-KR Puram stretch of the Outer Ring Road for over four hours on Tuesday after a BMTC bus broke down.

Facing Page

New twist: Haryana ASI ends life, names Puran Kumar in note

CHANDIGARH, PTI: A Haryana assistant sub-inspector in Rohtak shot himself dead on Tuesday and purportedly levelled corruption allegations against the late Inspector General Y Puran Kumar, adding a murky twist to the suspected suicide of the senior Dalit officer who served in the same district.

Sandeep Kumar left behind a six-minute purported video and a three-page suicide note naming Puran Kumar.

The veracity of the Kumar's purported video and the statement could not be immediately verified.

Details on Page 12

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

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And
5 BENGALURU CITY CORPORATIONS

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Bengaluru City Development

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- Enter EPID of your FINAL B-Khata & Fetch
- Aadhaar Authentication of Owners
- Confirm site Location, type of road in front of site
- Both converted & unconverted sites eligible (Flats not eligible)
- Print acknowledgement
- Site visit by city corporations & confirmation
- Pay "Single Plot" approval fee @5% of guidance value of site & other charges
- Automatic Single Plot approval & A-Khata is issued as per Eligibility

More than 2000 sqm

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- Apply online @https://bpas.bbmpgov.in for any type of plot
- Upload required documents and CAD drawing
- Pay Initial Scrutiny Fee of Rs. 500
- Submit application online (Flats not eligible)
- Site inspection by visit
- Approval as per eligibility
- Payment of Applicable Fees
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru , 19th September, 2025

S. O. 4246(E) -In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 20E of the Railway Act 1989, the central Government after being satisfied With the report of Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru vide his office communicated and hereby declares that the lands described and shown in the following schedule and notified under S. O. 2203(E) dated 15.05.20258 under sub-section (1) of section 20A of the act, shall be acquired for executing the Special railway project, construction of ROB on lieu pof LC 35.

Any person interested in the said land may, within Thirty days from the date of publication of this notification in the official Gazette, raise objection to the acquisition and use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under sub-section (1) of Section 20D of the said Act:

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority and Special Land Acquisition Officer, Tumakuru-Rayadurga and Tumakuru-Davanagere Railway project, Tumakuru for LC No. 35 in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the competent authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the competent authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections:

The Competent authority issued 20D Notice to land owners and provided 30 days period for objections and the hearing conducted on 25.07.2025. Hearing of objections received by the land owners is done and objections are cleared by SLAO/CA and revised the extent as per CA report for LHS Portion alignment modified towards Basavapattanna Village and land extent considered for construction of Limited Height Subway.

Any order made by the competent authority under sub-section (2) of Section 20 D of the said Act shall be final:

The land plans and other details of the land covered under this notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid Office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

DISTRICT : TUMAKURU **TALUK: TUMAKURU**
HOBLI : URDIGERE **VILLAGE: THIMLAPURA**

Sl No.	Sy No.	Beneficiary	Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of land
1	1/1	C.Chikkagangaiah S/o Late Chikkanna, Krishnamurthy S/o Late Chikkanna, Kalavathi W/o Late Gangadhar	0-09 1/4	-	0-03	0-06 1/4	Dry
2	2	Famidha Khanum W/o Late Abdul Wazeed, Yakbal Ahamed S/o Basid Saab.K Uruf Abdul Baseeth	0-08	-	0-03	0-05	Dry
3	3/1	Veena W/o Late Nataraju,	0-05	-	0-03	0-02	Dry
4	3/1	K.N.Manohar S/o Late V.Nagaraju, K.N.Mahesh S/o Late K.V.Nagaraju	0-05	-	0-03	0-02	Dry
5	3/2	Famidha Khanum W/o Late Abdul Wazeed, Yakbal Ahamed S/o Late Abdul Basid Sab Uruf Abdul Baseeth	0-16	-	0-06	0-10	Dry
6	3/3	Susheela W/o Late K.N. Jayaramaiah	0-03	-	0-01	0-02	Dry
7	4/3	T Umadevi D/o Gangamma	0-02	-	-	0-02	Dry
8	4/4,4/5, 4/6	Park Layout Road	0-03 0-01	-	-	0-03 0-01	Park Layout Road
9	4/9	B.Ramesh S/o Budda Thimmaiah	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Residentially Converted
		Total	**1-13**	-	**0-19**	**0-34**	-

DISTRICT : TUMAKURU **TALUK: TUMAKURU**
HOBLI : URDIGERE **VILLAGE: KYATHSANDRA**

Sl No.	Sy No.	Beneficiary	Extent (In Acres-Guntas) Total (A-G)	A Kharab (A-G)	B Kharab (A-G)	Balance (A-G)	Classification of land
1	83/ Block 1	Citizen Accessibility	0-02	-	-	0-02	CA Land
2	83/3	K.N.Gopal S/o Late Naraseeyappa	0-00 3/4	-	-	0-00 3/4	Dry
3	83/5	Susheela.V W/o K.N.Jayaramaiah	0-01 1/4	-	-	0-01 1/4	Dry
4	83/6	K.N.Krishnappa S/o Late Naraseeyappa	0-01	-	-	0-01	Dry
5	83/ Block 2	Layout Road	0-01	-	-	0-01	Road
6	83/ Block 3	Tata Lot (Park)	0-01	-	-	0-01	Park
7	84/4A	Narayanappa S/o Naraseeyappa, Bhoga Narasimhaiah S/o K.N. Narasanna, Lakshmamma W/o Late K.N.Narasanna, Krishnamurthy S/o Late K.N.Narasanna	0-04	-	-	0-04	Dry
8	84/9	Ananth Athri S/o A Rajaram	0-04	_	_	0-04	Dry
		Total	**0-15**	**-**	**-**	**0-15**	-

DISTRICT : TUMAKURU **TALUK: TUMAKURU**
HOBLI : URDIGERE **VILLAGE: BASAVAPATTANA**

Sl No.	Sy No. Site No.	Beneficiary	Extent (In Acres-Guntas & In Sq.Ft) Total (A-G & Sq.Ft)	A Kharab (A-G & Sq.Ft)	B Kharab (A-G & Sq.Ft)	Balance (A-G & Sq.Ft)	Classification of land
1	15/2	Thimmappa S/o Thimmakka	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Dry
2	15/38	Rajshekar Murthy S/o Late Kumbaiah, Pardeep.A.K. S/o Late Kumbaiah	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
3	15/25	Narasegowda S/o Narasimhaiah	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
4	15/25	Jayamma W/o Narseeyappa	0-00 1/2	-	-	0-00 1/2	Dry
5	15/27	Premakumari W/o Shivakumar	0-00 1/2	_	_	0-00 1/2	Dry
6	15	Road	0-00 1/4	-	-	0-00 1/4	Road
7	15/37	Chandrahas S/o Late M.Eshwar, R.K.Vasanthi W/o Chandrahas	43.00 Sq. ft	-	-	43.00 Sq. ft	Site
8	16/4	Seenappa S/o Narayanappa	0-01 1/4	-	_	0-01 1/4	Residentially Converted
		Total	**0-03 3/4 + 43 Sq.Ft.**	-	-	**0-03 3/4 + 43 Sq.Ft.**	-

ABSTRACT

Sl No.	Village	Classification	Extent (In Acres-Guntas & Sq.Ft) Total (A-G & Sq.Ft)	A Kharab (A-G & Sq.Ft)	B Kharab (A-G & Sq.Ft)	Balance (A-G & Sq.Ft)
1	Thimlapura	Dry	1-08 1/4	_	0-19	0-29 1/4
		Park	0-03	_	_	0-03
		Layout Road	0-01	_	_	0-01
		Residentially Converted	0-00 3/4	_	_	0-00 3/4
		Total	**1-13**	_	**0-19**	**0-34**
2	Kyathsandra	Dry	0-11	_	_	0-11
		CA Land	0-02	_	_	0-02
		Layout Road	0-01	_	_	0-01
		Park	0-01	_	_	0-01
		Total	**0-15**	-	-	**0-15**
3	Basavapattana	Dry	0-02 1/4	_	_	0-02 1/4
		Road	0-00 1/4	_	_	0-00 1/4
		Site	43 sq.ft	_	_	43 sq.ft
		Residentially Converted	0-01 1/4	_	_	0-01 1/4
		Total	**0-03 3/4 + 43 Sq. Ft**	_	_	**0-03 3/4 + 43 Sq. Ft**
Grand Total			**1-31 3/4 + 43 Sq. Ft**	-	-	**1-31 3/4 + 43 Sq. Ft**

* In Sy No. 3/1 of Thimlapura village, Veena W/o Late K.V.Nataraju, K.N.Manohara S/o Late K.V.Nagaraju and K.N. Mahesh S/o Late K.V.Nagaraju gave consent letter for construction of Limited Height Sub Way and requested to include in Section 20E (Declaration of Land) under Railway Act 1989 on 24.07.2025 for further land acquisition process.
* In Sy No. 3/3 of Thimlapura village, Susheela. V W/o Late Jayaramaiah.K.N gave consent letter for construction of Limited Height Sub Way and requested to include in Section 20E(Declaration of Land) under Railway Act 1989 on 24.07.2025 for further land acquisition process.

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

For details log on : https://egazette.gov.in

Pardeep Puri
Chief Engineer/ Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/537/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **UTS** Moblie App from **Google Play Store** for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Sr. DEE(G)/Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division acting on behalf of the President of India invites open tender, through e-Tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only, in **www.ireps.gov.in** website. No offline tender will be accepted for this tender. Please read the tender document carefully uploaded in the document section for details. **Tender Notice No.: Elect-Chg-25-26-RY750-28, Date: 13.10.2025. Name of the work:** Provision of 750V supply for EOG coaches at Reception yard Line at Santragachi coaching depot. **Tender Value:** ₹ 3,29,97,015.72. **EMD/Bid Security:** ₹ 3,15,000. **Tender closing date & time:** 03.11.2025, 11.00 hrs. Tender Notice, tender document and other details are given in the **www.ireps.gov.in.** **(PR-720)**

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Open e-Tender Notice No. : DRM/Works/BZA/30/2025 dt : 10.10.2025 PUB/1280/25

For and on behalf of the President of India, the undersigned invites E-Tenders for the following work up to **15:00** hours and the date mentioned against each.

Sl. No.: 1, **Tender No.:** E-30-Central-BZA-2025, **Name of work :** SW-I: Vijayawada-Visakhapatam section: SSE/Pway/NZD Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & up gradation works at various yards, SW-II: Vijayawada-Visakhapatam section: SSE/Pway/EE Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards, **Period of Completion :** 12 (Twelve Months), **Tender value (Rs.) :** 5,22,49,550/-, **EMD (Rs.) :** 4,11,300/-, **Date of Closing:** 04.11.2025.

Sl. No.: 2, **Tender No.:** E-31-Central-BZA-2025, **Name of work :** SW-I: Vijayawada-Visakhapatam section: SSE/Pway/BPP Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & up gradation works at various yards, SW-II: Vijayawada-Visakhapatam section: SSE/Pway/NDO Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards, SW-III: Vijayawada-Visakhapatam section: SSE/Pway/TEL Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards, **Period of Completion :** 12 (Twelve Months), **Tender value (Rs.) :** 8,36,30,695/-, **EMD (Rs.) :** 5,68,200/-, **Date of Closing:** 04.11.2025.

Sl. No.: 3, **Tender No.:** E-39-EAST-BZA-2025, **Name of work :** SW-I: Kondapalli-Vijayawada section: SSE/PWay/N/BZA Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & up gradation works at various yards, SW-II: SSE/PWay/S/BZA Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards, SW-III: Vijayawada-Gudivada section: SSE/PWay/GDV Jurisdiction: Proposed safety related yard improvement & upgradation works at various yards, **Period of Completion :** 12 (Twelve Months), **Tender value (Rs.) :** 5,31,61,630/-, **EMD (Rs.) :** 4,15,800/-, **Date of Closing:** 04.11.2025.

1) Tender conditions/other particulars such as the details of Name of work in full, the similar nature of the above work, eligibility criteria etc., are available in the Tender documents published in website at "**www.ireps. gov.in**".

2) The prospective tenderers are advised to visit website "**www.ireps.gov.in**" before the date of tender closing to note any changes/corrigenda for any tender.

3) The Tender Notice is also displayed in the Notice Board located in the office of Divisional Railway Manager (Works), S.C.Railway, Vijayawada and ADEN sub-divisional offices of Vijayawada Division which can be seen.

4) The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto.

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Vijayawada

E-TENDER NOTICE No.: GNT/SG/36/354 dated 10.10.2025

PUB/1288/25

The undersigned invites e-tenders for the works mentioned below up to **12:00 hrs. of 03.11.2025.**

ID No.: 354; **Name of the work:** 1) Provision of Auto Fuse Change over system at 97 locations Guntur Division 2) Provision of Auto Fuse Change over system and Earth Leakage Detector with Digital Display at 20 locations Guntur Division 3) Provision of Fault Management and Remote Diagnostic Infrastructure for quick repair and maintenance over Guntur Division.; **Advertised Tender Value(Rs.):** 4,23,06,421.70; **EMD/Bid-Security:** Rs. 3,61,500.00; **Cost of Tender Document(Rs.):** Nil.

1. If the date of opening of tenders happens to be declared holiday at later date, the tenders will be opened on the next work day at the stipulated time. **2.** Last dates for online submission of E-bids are **03.11.2025 upto 12:00 hrs.** For detailed information logon to our website at **www.ireps.gov.in 3.** Any further communication/corrigendum shall only be intimated through E-portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer/Guntur

A1616

For further tender conditions/ details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

A healing tribute: Free surgeries mark Founder's Day

BENGALURU, DHNS

To mark Founder's Day and honour the late Dr Thomas Chandy, Hosmat Hospital performed free surgeries in the paediatric orthopaedics department for 10 children.

The surgeries were conducted on children from across Karnataka, who had limb deformities or accident-related injuries.

Dr Noel Naleen Kumar, orthopaedic surgeon, who performed the procedures, said, "Dr Chandy always instructed us to never turn away from providing treatment to those who cannot afford it. We are continuing his vision."

Many paediatric surgeries are expensive and often need to be carried out in stages, involving multiple procedures.

A statue of Dr Thomas Chandy was unveiled inside the hospital to honour his memory. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

"The management sometimes writes off bills if the patient cannot afford it," Dr Noel added.

One of the beneficiaries, Mohammad Shureim, underwent surgery to correct a leg deformity caused by an accident. His mother said they had visited several hospitals before receiving free treatment at Hosmat. Another child, from Ballari and not even a year old, was operated on for clubfoot.

A statue of Dr Chandy was unveiled inside the hospital in his memory.

"We will take his legacy forward," said Anisha Chandy Eckardt, Managing Director, Hosmat Multispeciality Hospital. She added that the hospital plans to expand its services to cosmetology, pain management, chemotherapy, and home healthcare. "We want to bring all services under one roof and give special focus to women's health and paediatrics across our branches."

Armand Chandy, Director, Hosmat Multispeciality Hospitals, said mental health would be another key area. "My father wanted to include mental health as one of our services. There is a lot of need for it, especially when people face life-changing trauma due to accidents."

Special trains from Bengaluru to Tuticorin & Kollam

BENGALURU, DHNS: The South Western Railway (SWR) will operate special trains connecting Bengaluru with Tuticorin and Kollam to clear the extra rush for Deepavali.

Train number 06297 will leave KSR Bengaluru at 10 pm on October 17 and 21, and reach Tuticorin at 11 am the next day.

Train number 06298 will leave Tuticorin at 2 pm on October 18 and 22, and arrive at Bengaluru Cantonment at 4.15 am the next day.

The train will stop at Bengaluru Cantonment, Hosur, Dharmapuri, Omalur, Salem, Namakkal, Karur, Dindigul, Kodaikanal Road, Sholavandan, Madurai, Tiruparankundram, Tirumangalam, Virudunagar Jn, Satur, Kovilpatti and Tuti Melur.

Train number 06561 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 3 pm on October 16 and reach Kollam at 6.20 am the next day.

Train number 06562 will leave Kollam at 10.45 am on October 17 and reach Bengaluru Cantonment at 3.30 am the next day.

Train number 06567 will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 11 pm on October 21 and reach Kollam at 12.55 pm the next day.

Train number 06568 will leave Kollam at 5 pm on October 22 and reach Bengaluru Cantonment at 9.45 am the next day.

The trains to Kollam will run via KR Puram, Bangarapet, Salem, Erode, Tiruppur, Podanur, Palakkad, Thrissur, Aluva, Ernakulam Town, Kottayam, Changanasseri, Thiruvalla, Chengannur, Mavelikara and Kayankulam.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that our clients are intending to acquire the development rights of Satchmo Holdings Limited (earlier known as NEL Holdings Ltd and previously known as Nitesh Estates Ltd) (herein after referred to as the **"Developer"**) over the property described in the Schedule (herein after referred to as the Schedule Property). The Developer has represented that the **Schedule Property** is owned by Mrs. Maheen Khaleel, Mrs. Sana Nazir Kazi and Mr. Zain Thanawala (both children of Mrs. Maheen Khaleel), Mrs. Wajeehe Khaleel, Mrs. Shazeeye Kirmani and Mrs. Afshan Kirmani (both daughters of Mrs. Wajeehe Khaleel), Mrs. Gety Kazerouni and Mr. Mansoor Hassan Kazerouni (collectively referred to herein as the **"Owners"**).

The Developer has represented that the Owners are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property and subject to rights of the Developer over the development rights, the Owners have unrestricted rights of alienation over the Schedule Property and that the Schedule Property, is free from all encumbrances, mortgages, charges, court cases, attachments, lien, litigation and/ or any third-party rights/ claims of any nature whatsoever.

The Developer has further represented that their development rights over the Schedule Property is valid, subsisting, in full force and effect. Further, the Developer has represented that they have not created any third-party interests over the Schedule Property till date either as the Developer of the Schedule Property or as the power of attorney holder of the Owners.

Any person/s having or claiming any form of right, title, claim, demand or interest in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, lease, lien, charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, easement, trust, bequest, assignment or encumbrance of whatsoever nature or any objection/s of any manner whatsoever to the proposed transaction for acquiring the development rights of the Developer are hereby requested to intimate the undersigned in writing at the address mentioned below, of any such claim, objection etc. accompanied with all necessary and supporting documents within **7 (seven)** days from the date of publication hereof.

In the absence of any objections and/or claims within the period mentioned above, our clients will proceed to complete the proposed transaction without reference to any such right, claim etc. and the same, if any, will be considered consciously waived and abandoned forever.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No. 16 (Old No. 8 and prior to that as property No. 4 and late No. 5), BBMP EPID No. 5970938679 admeasuring 1,06,513 square feet (9,895.4 Square meters) situated at Ali Asker Road, Sampangiramanagar Ward No. 110, Bengaluru and bounded on its:

East by : Ali Asker Road;
West by : Property bearing No. 15 (old No. 7) Ali Asker Road;
North by : Property bearing No. 17 (old No. 11) Ali Asker Road; and
South by : Ali Asker Road;

Sd/-
N.K. Dilip / S. Raghu Nandana
Tatva Legal Bangalore, Advocates
4th Floor, Phoenix Pinnacle, No. 46, Ulsoor Road, Bengaluru 560 042

Place: Bangalore
Dated: 14.10.2025

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़

रामगढ़ थाना के सामने, थाना चौक/गांधी चौक, रामगढ़ कैन्ट, जिला– रामगढ़, झारखण्ड– 829122, ई-मेल–eercdramgarh-jhr@nic.in

" सूचना "

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि पथ प्रमण्डल, रामगढ़ अन्तर्गत एस०बी०डी० आधारित अति–अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचनाका प्रसंग संख्या–RCD/RAMGARH/905/2025-26दिनांक–19.09.2025 का P.R. No.- 363078Road(25-26)_D द्वारा आमंत्रित अतिअल्पकालीन ई–निविदा में निम्न प्रकार पुनः संशोधित किया जाता है:–

क्रमांक	विवरणी	पूर्व में आमंत्रित तिथि	संशोधन की तिथि
1.	वेबसाईट पर निविदा प्रकाशित होने की तिथि एवं समय	**14.10.2025** 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न	**18.10.2025** 10:30 बजे पूर्वाह्न
2.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	**28.10.2025** 12:00 बजे दिन तक	**30.10.2025** 12:00 बजे दिन तक

शेष यथावत रहेंगे।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
पथ निर्माण विभाग, पथ प्रमण्डल,
रामगढ़

PR 364062 Road(25-26)#D

ANUSANDHAN NATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

(A Statutory body of Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India)

(File No. ANRF/Rectt./2025)

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE No.02/2025

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) invites applications for filling up of the following posts as per the details given below:

Scientific & Technical Positions:

Sl No	Name of the Post	Pay Stale	No. of Posts	Mode of Recruitment	Reservation
1	Scientist-D	Level-12 in Pay Matrix (Rs.78800-209200)	02	Deputation/ Direct Recruitment	UR-2
2	Scientist-C	Level-11 in Pay Matrix (Rs.67700-208700)	05*	Direct Recruitment	UR-2 OBC-01 SC-01 ST-01

*one post is also reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities (PwBD) candidates, out of the five posts of Scientist-C.

- Last date of submission of application would be 45 (forty-five) days from the date of publication of Advertisement in the "Employment News/Rozgar Samachar" and applicants from notified remote areas will be 60 days from the date of publication of Advertisement in the "Employment News" as given in the detailed advertisement.
- **The detailed advertisement** containing other details like Eligibility criteria, Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, Selection process, Terms & Conditions of the recruitment and Application Format etc. is available on our Websites: **www.serb.gov.in/www.dst.gov.in**

CBC 36130/11/0001/2526 **Director**

IN THE CITY

GENERAL

BGS MCH Hospital: World Mental Health Day-2025 programme: Nagarur; 11 am.

Royal English School: Inauguration of Kannada and English Training Camp; Chandra Layout; from 11 am onwards.

CULTURAL

Vimove Foundation: 'Panchatattva'–Karnataka Harmony Dance Performance by Kavya Avadhani and Team; Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 4 pm.

Prekshit Publication: Release of KM Raghu's book 'DK Shivakumar'; Chandrashekhara Kambara and others participate; FKCCI Auditorium; KG Road; 6 pm.

CITY WEATHER

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain or thundershowers

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.5°C
Minimum	21.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	71%
Sunset (Oct 15)	6:02 pm
Sunrise (Oct 16)	6:10 am
Moonrise	--:-- am
Moonset	1:16 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

EASTERN RAILWAY

The following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Remote Control Building, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Sl. No. 1, Tender No. : ELEG-OT-1265-2025-26 dtd. 10.10.2025. Particulars of the Work :** BBT : Provision of additional IRS type shed (16.00 M x 7.14 M) & (16.00 M x 9.00 M) over PF No. 1 (4 nos.) & PF No. 2/ 3 (3 nos.) (Total - 7 Nos.) with PF bench under PF shed for additional passenger amenities with all other ancillary works under SSE/W/BT. **Sl. No. 2, Tender No. : ELEG OT-1266-2025-26 dtd. 10.10.2025. Particulars of the Work :** Proposal for providing passenger centric amenities at SEP station. **Sl. No. 3, Tender No. : ELEG OT-1271-2025-26, dtd. 10.10.2025. Particulars of the Work :** Running repairing contract of submersible pump & motor sets for drinking water and fountain purpose under jurisdiction of SSE/E/G/ IC/CP for one year. **Tender Value:** Rs. 20,22,681/- (for Sl. No. 1), Rs. 9,29,523/- (for Sl. No. 2) & Rs. 22,63,876/- (for Sl. No. 3). **Earnest Money :** Rs. 40,500/- (for Sl. No. 1), Rs. 18,600/- (for Sl. No. 2) & Rs. 45,300/-. **Cost of Tender document:** Nil for each. **Completion period :** 6 months (for Sl. Nos. 1 & 2) & 12 months (for Sl. No. 3). **Tender closing date & time:** 03.11.2025 at 14.00 hrs. for each. **Tender bid opening date & time :** 03.11.2025 after 14.00 hrs. for each. **Tender bidding start date:** 20.10.2025 for each. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website **www.ireps.gov.in**

(SDAH-227/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

CORRIGENDUM - 3 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2025/SEP/02, DATED. 11-09-2025

Corrigendum - 3 for Tender Notice No. CON/2025/SEP/02 has been issued against **Tender No. CE/CON/J-I/DDC/2025/13**. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer/Con/Manipur Project, Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Construction Organization
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/147/2025
Dated : 09-10-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Auto Signalling works between Yesvantpur - Arsikere Section : Proposed Construction of Station buildings at Golhalli, Dodbele and Hirehalli Stations. **(Tender Ref. No. YPR-ASK-AUTOGOOMTY)**	**Rs. 7,56,11,980/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs on 31-10-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/554/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

National Council of Science Museums

Ministry of Culture, Government of India
Ministry of Culture, Government of India
33, Block-GN, Sector-V, Bidhan Nagar
Kolkata-700 091

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Sd/- Head of Department (Civil), JRDA, Dhanbad

PR 364121 Rural Development (25-26)_D

Govt okays new plan for reducing maternal mortality rate

To use exclusive software for monitoring in public hospitals

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government on Tuesday approved 'Mission Zero Preventable Maternal Death', a comprehensive action plan for the reduction of Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR). Karnataka's MMR is 57 per one lakh.

In 2024-25, as many as 9,31,850 births and 530 maternal deaths were reported in the state, after which an internal investigation was conducted. Seventy percent of these deaths were preventable with better drugs and equipment, according to government data.

The investigation revealed that haemorrhage, hypertensive disorders in pregnancy, sepsis/infections, thrombosis and embolism and medical disorders complicating pregnancy as the primary reasons for the death of new mothers.

To provide better facilities, the government will be rationalising the functioning of 148 taluk hospitals and 274 CHCs, primarily focusing on Ballari, Vijayanagar, Chitradurga and Tumakuru as these districts reported 14% of the total deaths and come under the Karnataka Mining and Environment Corporation (KMERC).

Pregnant and lactating women belonging to Priority Household (PHH) for the first two births in the 10 taluks of KMERC districts will be provided with monetary and nutrition assistance. The monetary benefits will be given during pregnancy and lactation through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

First-time mothers will be provided Rs 14,500 while they will receive receive Rs 15,500 (Rs 6,000 from PMMVY) for the second time for the female child. Mothers with a male child will receive Rs 15,500 completely from KMERC.

The nutrition kits will be procured from Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (KSMCL) and distributed through the Women and Child Department.

Initially, as many as 25,851 beneficiaries will be covered at a cost of Rs 2,484 lakh.

Carbetocin and Ferric Carboxymaltose injection will be procured as they help in haemorrhage and anemia, respectively. They will be supplied to all government health centres and hospitals.

Uterine Balloon Tamponade and SR Cannula, NAS Garments, Semi-automated Coagulation Analyzer, Ultrasonography machines and NST machines will be procured for several taluk hospitals and primary healthcare centers. Magnesium sulphate will be immediately administered for severe preeclampsia, when blood pressure is more than 160/110 or any other impending signs of eclampsia are present.

A separate taluk-level committee under the deputy commissioner will be in charge of addressing the gaps based on the technical inputs.

The changes will also be made in the existing death audit mechanism by the state-level technical audit committee taking charge of it.

The government will use an exclusive software to monitor women undergoing childbirth in public hospitals by implementing the Karnataka-Advanced Realtime and Comprehensive Partograph (K-ARC Partography) digital tool.

The state committee has also proposed the inclusion of Arogya Bharat- Arogya Karnataka schemes in ICU of private hospitals for critical cases despite economic status as that would save the crucial time from travelling.

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'Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

Mental health hospitals to be set up in Mysuru, Kalaburagi at Rs 100 crore each

Proposal to be tabled in tomorrow's Cabinet meeting

BENGALURU, DHNS

Cognisant of the need to ensure mental wellbeing of people across the state, the state government has decided to establish mental health hospitals, modelled on the National Institute for Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru, in Mysuru and Kalaburagi with Rs 100 crore being earmarked for each.

Minister for Medical Education Dr Sharan Prakash Patil said that the proposal would be tabled at the Cabinet meeting scheduled on Thursday. "Our goal is to establish hospitals for cardiological, neurological and mental health problems in every region, and we have decided to start with Mysuru and Kalaburagi," Patil told *DH*.

Meanwhile, the government is also at work developing NIMHANS's second campus on a 39-acre plot near the Kempegowda International Airport.

The new mental health hospitals would address more than accident trauma, said Patil. "Most of our hospitals have a dedicated trauma care section. Given that mental health issues are increasing among the public, the new hospitals will address all problems pertaining to it," said the minister.

The establishment of mental health hospitals in Mysuru and Kalaburagi had actually been announced in the 2025 State Budget.

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Taliban U-turn: Women scribes flag hidden prejudices

They say if India engages with Afghanistan, it must make clear that gender discrimination is unacceptable

PRANATI A S
TEAM METROLIFE

Senior women journalists in Bengaluru have condemned the exclusion of women reporters from a press conference organised by the Afghanistan Embassy in India. They also criticised male journalists for failing to stand up for their female counterparts.

Following the backlash, Afghanistan's Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said the incident was not intentional and held another press conference, where women journalists were seated in the front row.

C G Manjula recalled being excluded from a political party's press tour in the mid-1980s when she worked as a district reporter for *Prajavani* in Chikkamagaluru. "When a local male reporter asked why I wasn't invited, they said, 'She is a lady. Will she travel with us to such a remote location?' After a brief discussion, they called and invited me, but only because a male journalist questioned them," she said. A politician later remarked on how the newspaper had sent a woman on a press tour. "It was 40 years ago. I'm baffled that nothing has changed since. It's also sad that no male journalist questioned the Taliban," she added.

C K Meena, who is also a novelist, said she found it "amusing" how quickly the Taliban corrected the "technical error" that led to the exclusion of women journalists. Commenting on the second press conference, she said, "They must have realised their hidebound attitude does not play well on the world stage."

After backlash over Afghan Foreign Minister's 'exclusionary' press meet in New Delhi, another was held on October 12, with women journalists in attendance. PIC: REUTERS

Author and journalist Ammu Joseph said she was glad the outrage prompted a course correction but added, "The exclusion of women from a press conference is only the tip of the iceberg of Taliban misogyny."

She also pointed out that no civil society representatives were allowed at meetings with Taliban officials during the UN-led conference in Doha last year. "That meant no Afghan woman could participate in discussions about their own country," she emphasised.

Ammu added that even if the Indian government wishes to engage with Afghanistan for strategic reasons, "they need to make it clear — in both countries — that discrimination against women is not acceptable".

Sports journalist Sharda Ugra said that while the incident showed "the Taliban is medieval in their mindset", it also proved they could be embarrassed into changing their behaviour. "It also said a lot about our male colleagues," she noted.

Sharda recalled how a well-known cricketer once made a snide remark to her female colleague, asking why the newspaper hired only women sports reporters and photographers — and whether it was because of 'easy access'.

POPCORN

Mum's the word

A boy in Bihar went on Tinder and matched with a girl. When they went on a date, she turned out to be his mother. Yeah. This story has gone viral, but what happened after that?

Did he get the beating of his life? Did the marketing guys at Santoor contact the mom? Did the two go Dutch once they were done with the sweet (or namkeen) nothings and the ice cream? Don't know, but the ancient Greeks knew a thing or two about such complications — in fact, they wrote a play. It is called 'Oedipus' and it is studied as a classic to this day.

Period leave won't disrupt work, many HR heads say

HR managers weigh in on benefits and implementation

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Last week, the Karnataka cabinet approved a menstrual leave policy for women employees in government and private establishments. It will apply to those working in MNCs, IT companies, factories, mines, and other sectors, reports say.

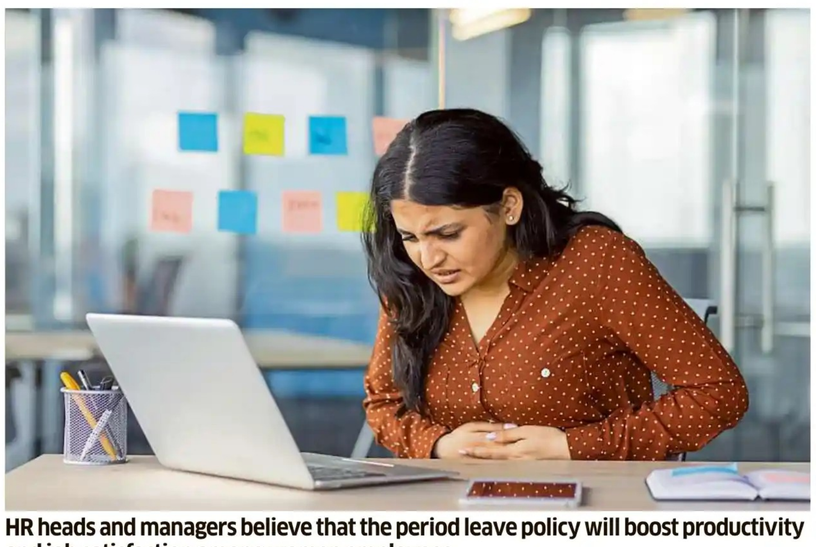
The policy mandates that companies give women employees one paid day leave per month.

For 33-year-old advertising professional Madhu K (name changed), who has PCOS, each cycle is different. "While my firm doesn't judge women for taking leave, a formal policy makes it easily accessible for everyone," she says.

Savya K, a software professional who commutes 19 km, adds: "Once the policy is in place, I won't have to use my other leaves, which can be saved for later."

Metrolife spoke to human resource (HR) heads and managers about how they plan to implement the policy and the challenges they foresee.

A Bengaluru-based influencer marketing platform had introduced the policy for its employees three years ago. Annie Thomas, HR head, calls the government's move "a major step toward recognising women in the workforce," adding that while not every woman makes use of the leave, having the choice matters.



HR heads and managers believe that the period leave policy will boost productivity and job satisfaction among women employees.

A city-based IT services firm implemented the option about six months ago. Sumanth S, director of talent acquisition, says it isn't mandatory and is "based on trust". Women form nearly 60% of their 150-member team. "We don't ask for details or maintain records, as that can create compliance issues and invade privacy," he says.

At a specialist staffing solutions firm on Residency Road, women form 55% of the workforce. The company implemented the policy in 2023. Co-founder Kamal Karanth, says, "The policy has boosted productivity and job satisfaction." At an industrial AI company in Whitefield, the policy will be rolled out from November. Women comprise 27% of the 70-member workforce. Sitara Subramani, manager (people and organisation), says the policy isn't expected to disrupt operations. "Even before this government mandate, our managers have always been supportive when women employees wanted leave during their period cycle," she adds.

Concerns

At a Bengaluru-based real estate company, women make up about 20% of the workforce.

Suresh Deshpande, its vice president (HR), says, "When someone is in pain, focus drops. In on-site roles, such leave is important," he notes. When multiple employees are on leave, managers can extend deadlines or give them the option to work from home to ensure work is not disrupted, he adds.

Sumanth notes that "sometimes, employees club the leave with a weekend" but most use it responsibly. He adds that allowing women to rest when they are unwell helps them return to work with better focus and energy.

Annie adds that work isn't affected, as other team members step in or tasks are rescheduled accordingly.

Deshpande says his company is considering creating spaces for women to rest once the policy comes into effect.

IS THIS ENOUGH?

A gynaecologist at a north Bengaluru hospital welcomes the move but questions if one day is enough. "For women with adenomyosis, endometriosis, fibroids, or bleeding disorders, menstrual pain and bleeding can be unpredictable," she explains. She adds that the policy should address additional leave on a case-by-case basis, to avoid judgement.

EVENTS

Music
As part of their music project Kayaka, M D Pallavi and Bruce Lee Mani will perform an acoustic concert featuring compositions drawn from 11th-century vachanas. The event will be held on October 18, 7 pm, at SabhaBlr, Kamaraj Road. Tickets online.

Book club
The monthly meetup of 'Dialogues with Books', meant for book lovers, is scheduled for October 19, 4 pm, at Dialogues Cafe, Koramangala. It allows participants to discuss their favourite books, discover new genres, and connect with like-minded people. Tickets online.

Art show
Artist Vaman Pai is presenting his solo show 'Nature Scapes' until October 19, 11 am onwards, at MKF Museum of Art, Lavelle Road. The exhibition is curated by Chandar Kumar and features nature-inspired works. Call 90192 76294 for details.

Fatal accidents lead to calls for restrictions on use of earphones

Last week, a college student using earphones was killed when he failed to notice an approaching train

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

The death of a 22-year-old has put the spotlight on the dangers posed by the use of earphones in public spaces. G Shashi Kumar, a college student, was crossing a railway track near Banaswadi railway station when he was hit by a train. He had his earphones on and did not hear the train approaching. This year alone, numerous such cases have been reported across the country. A law curbing the use of earphones for pedestrians is much needed, activists say.

Rajani V, a media professional who lives near Jalahalli Cross, has witnessed multiple near-misses on her commute home from work. "Jalahalli Cross is a mess. There are buses coming in from all directions, and in the middle of the chaos I often see young people crossing the road with no awareness of what is happening around them. They have their earphones on and are watching reels or other videos on their phones," she shares.

According to civic activist Vinod Jacob, social media addiction is the biggest culprit for earphone overuse. "I think the government should consider bringing in a law that bans earphone use in certain areas like busy roads or near railway tracks," Jacob states.

Call for awareness drives

Spreading awareness about the hazards posed by earphones is much needed, believes Sanjeev Dyamannavar, urban transport expert. He points out that car and bike users also put others at risk due to earphone use. In 2021, the Bengaluru Traffic Police imposed a ban on using earphones while driving or riding. "The ban is still in effect and this year, we have already registered 34,687 violations," says Karthik Reddy, joint commissioner of police (traffic).

While there is no clear link between accident cases and earphone use in Bengaluru, it is still unsafe to use them while behind the wheel, notes Gopal Byakod, DCP traffic (south). "When we are alerted about an accident, our first priority is to get the driver to the hospital and not to check whether they have been using earphones or earpods. In the case of the railway track accident, it was very clear what caused it," Byakod explains.

Health concerns

Dr E V Raman, an ENT specialist, warns against use of earphones during "all waking hours". The duration of use and volume level are two factors to consider. "It causes hearing issues, ear pain and hygiene issues because the ear wax gets trapped," Dr Raman says. Also, younger people often buy cheap earphones which do not follow safety guidelines, putting their ears at risk. He recommends taking breaks from earphones through the day, to stay safe. If one's job is dependent on it, it is best to use headphones instead, he adds.

According to a civic activist, social media addiction is the biggest culprit for the overuse of earphones. PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Pop, funk, R&B, and rock at concert by school students

Current and former students of the Bethany group of educational institutions, along with teachers and parents, will stage a charity concert titled 'Simply The Best 2' on October 17. It will be held at the Bethany High School Grounds in Koramangala, 6.30 pm onwards.

It will feature a 35-member show choir, primary school children performing an Elvis Presley medley, and alumni presenting songs from the 'Hamilton' musical. Spanning pop, funk, R&B, and rock, the setlist includes hits by TOTO, AC/DC, Backstreet Boys, NSYNC, Queen, Coldplay, The Beatles, and A R Rahman. The concert, which has been divided into two parts, will feature two live bands — one for each half. "These students were selected through auditions and began rehearsing in mid-August," says band director Blesswin Immanuel.

A screengrab from last year's concert that drew 1,200 people.

CITY MIX

Travel stories from Antarctica expedition

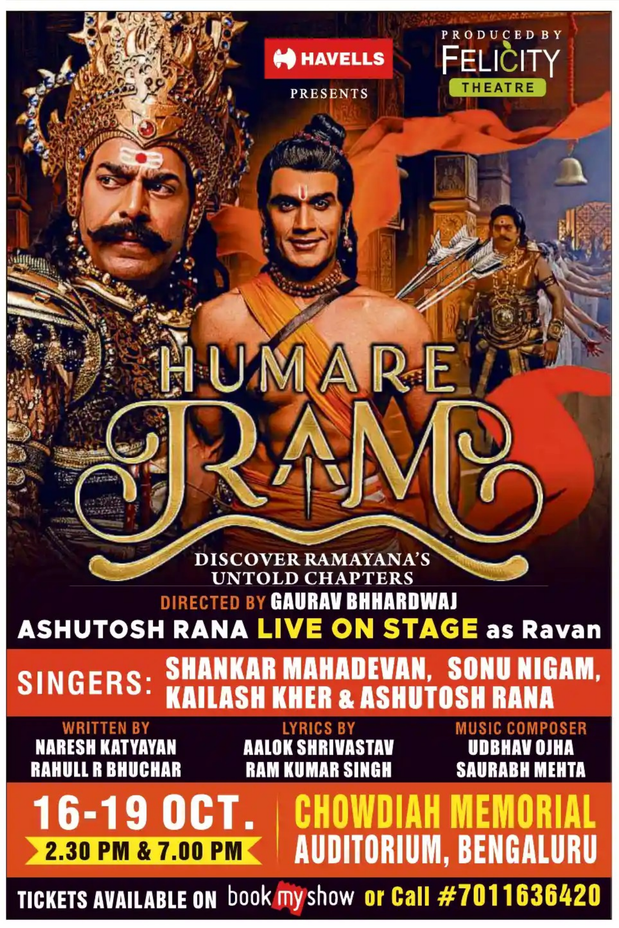
Traveller and entrepreneur Raksha Nagaraj will share her experiences and photographs from an expedition to Antarctica on October 17, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Titled 'Antarctica: A Journey in Photographs', the event will highlight her participation in a Citizen Science programme, where travellers supported researchers by collecting plankton samples, studying the impact of fjord freshwater on seawater, and recording data to understand climate change. Visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Talent showcase by senior citizens

Elderly residents of Cooke Town will showcase their talent in a special event on October 18, from 11 am to 1 pm, at St Vincent's House on McPherson Road in the neighbourhood. They will sing, act, dance, paint, and walk the ramp. A host of other activities are also planned. The event is an initiative by Hearts Ever Young, started by a group of friends in the Cooke Town area. The show is their first social outreach activity, targetted at senior citizens aged 75 and above. It is intended only for Cooke Town residents.

One-man play on isolation and secrets

A one-man interactive play set in a rural Indian village will be staged at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, on October 17, at 7 pm. Titled 'Vrindaban, Present Please', it revolves around Samiran Banerjee, a Kolkata teacher who is transferred to a village school. The play unravels questions about isolation, hidden truths, and the blurred lines between personal and professional life. Tickets online.



Event to spotlight Bengalureans who fought in WWII

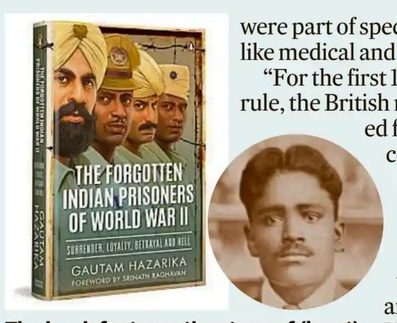
A new book chronicles the lives of Indian troops captured by the Japanese in Singapore

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

When Singapore, a British colony, fell to the Japanese in World War II, 62,000 Indian soldiers were captured. A new book, being launched in Bengaluru on Thursday, sheds light on their fate; about a thousand of them were from Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Titled 'The Forgotten Indian Prisoners of World War II', the book is written by Gautam Hazarika, a former banker-turned-author based in Singapore.

A collector of old books, first editions, and manuscripts, Hazarika made a rare find at an auction three years ago: a manuscript written inside Singapore's Changi Prison during the war. It sparked his curiosity about Indian Prisoners of War (PoWs). He learned that captured soldiers were given a choice: join the Japanese-backed Indian National Army (INA) or face forced labour in far-off places like Papua New Guinea.


THE FORGOTTEN INDIAN PRISONERS OF WORLD WAR II
SURRENDER, LOYALTY, BETRAYAL AND HELL
GAUTAM HAZARIKA
FOREWORD BY SRINATH RAGHAVAN

The book features the story of (inset) Sapper Marimuthu of the Madras Sappers, among others.

Hazarika said the soldiers from Bengaluru and Mysuru came from the 1st Mysore Infantry. Out of about 500 other local men, some were sent as engineers and others were part of specialised units like medical and ordnance.

"For the first 100 years of their rule, the British mostly recruited from northern communities like Punjabi Muslims, Sikhs, Dogras, and Gurkhas, believing others were unfit for the army. But during World War II, they had to expand the army to about 25 lakh, so they widened recruitment across India," he explained.

Life in PoW camps was brutal. Soldiers were often denied food, sleep, and medicine. Some were beaten or even beheaded for disobeying "unrealistic orders". The book also explores the war's toll on the women left behind. The wives had little money, children to raise, and no news of their husbands. "Many were urged to remarry but they refused," Hazarika said. He shared the story of Sapper Marimuthu of the Madras Sappers. Though he was killed in 1942, his family learned of his death four years later, from soldiers who had made it back home. From that day on, his wife began wearing white. It was only last year that the family found his name in the Kranji War Cemetery in Singapore.

At the Bengaluru event, titled 'The Forgotten Bangalorean Soldiers', families whose lives were shaped by the war will share their stories and legacies.

On October 16, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur.

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Foreign varsities in K'taka: Govt to propose quota for state students

'Exploring opportunities to offer scholarships from govt'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Following a number of foreign universities and higher education institutions showing interest to open their campuses in Karnataka, the Congress government is planning to propose a reservation for poor-meritorious students from the state in these institutions.

To begin with, the state government has proposed this to Lancaster University which announced to set up its campus in Bengaluru and is likely to start operations from February, 2026. The admissions will begin from August/September 2026.

As shared by Higher Education Minister Dr M C Sudhakar, along with reservation, the state government is also contemplating offering scholarships to the selected students.

"If our students wants to go all the way to a particular country and pursue higher education it would not be financially affordable for all. Considering that we are also exploring opportunities to offer scholarships from the government side by requesting even the universities to have their contribution in it. This will also show their social commitment," Sudhakar said.

Lancaster is the second foreign university to set up its campus in Karnataka. The University of Liverpool from UK has already signed an agreement with the Karnataka government to set up its campus at KWIN city. Even Imperial College of Landon has opened its research wing at the Bengaluru City University.

As per the information, the Lancaster University is planning to operate from a temporary campus located at Electronic City in around 50,000 sq ft area. It will shift to its own campus in next four years. The University has also requested for a land and other basic facilities at marginal price. The University will offer courses in Cyber Security, Business, Finance and Accounting.

Create casteless society, CM tells students

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday asked the students pursuing science courses to develop scientific temperament to create a casteless society.

Expressing disappointment about some of his cabinet colleagues practising blind beliefs, Siddaramaiah said, "Even some of my cabinet colleagues have studied science, but when I see them I doubt whether they have really studied science," he stated.

He was speaking during the inauguration of new building at Nrupatunga University in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Siddaramaiah responded positively to the request submitted by the Nrupatunga University alumni association and said, he will allocate Rs 8 crore for the construction of 6th and 7th floor in the newly constructed building. Though the university wanted to build seven floors, due to shortage of funds it has stopped at the fifth floor. The building was sanctioned under RUSA scheme and provided Rs 52 crore for the construction.

K'taka invites partners to build quantum ecosystem

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government extended an open invitation in Geneva to global partners to collaborate with Karnataka in research, innovation, and industrial development related to the quantum ecosystem.

The Minister of Science and Technology and Minor Irrigation, N S Boseraju at the Swissnex Quantum Summit recently, said the state invites global researchers, institutions, and industries to join hands in building a shared future in quantum technologies.

Boseraju highlighted that Karnataka was in the frontrunner in implementing the National Quantum Mission (NQM) launched by the Government of India with an investment of Rs 6,000 crore.

He said the aim is to transfer the state into a $20-billion quantum economy by 2035, positioning Bengaluru as a major global hub for quantum technology and innovation.

The minister also spoke about the Quantum Research Park established at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, that supports over 55 research and development projects and 13 startups, while training more than 1,000 quantum professionals annually. With long-term growth as the vision, the state government has sanctioned an additional grant of Rs 48 crore for this initiative.

During the summit, Boseraju also unveiled the concept video of "Q-City-Phase One", offering a first look at Karnataka's dedicated quantum technology campus to be developed in Bengaluru. The proposed Q-City will integrate hardware manufacturing units, advanced research and development facilities, incubation centers, and collaborative workspaces designed to accelerate quantum innovation from lab to market.

Amend norms for OCI students born before March 4, 2021: HC to KEA

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has directed the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) to amend its notification/prospectus from next year onwards to consider the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) cardholders born before March 4, 2021, on a par with Indian citizens for admission to professional courses through government seats.

A division bench of Justices D K Singh and Venkatesh Naik T passed this order, observing that clause 7 of the KEA's January 22, 2025, notification is against the Supreme Court judgment in the Anushka Rengunthwar case.

The division bench gave this direction while allowing the petitions filed by Shreyas Chaturvedi Murthy from Bengaluru and Mukul Pravin Khamayacha from Mysuru, both OCI cardholders.

The petitioners submitted that they had studied in Karnataka throughout and completed Class 10 and PUC examinations.

They challenged the eligibility conditions specified in the KEA notification for admission to professional courses in the state for 2025-2026.

Clause 7 stipulated that candidates must be Indian citizens and meet one of the specified eligibility conditions to qualify for government seats.

It also stated that candidates who do not meet the eligibility criteria are ineligible for admission to professional courses under government seats through the KEA.

The counsels for the petitioners contended that both were born before March 4, 2021, and must be treated as Indian citizens as per the Anushka Rengunthwar case.

The Union government informed the court that while it had framed the rules in tune with the Supreme Court Judgment, the rules have not yet been notified.

"Once the Supreme Court has decided the issue that the OCI cardholders/persons having OCI card and who were born before 04.03.2021 should be treated as citizens of India for the purpose of admission, etc, clause 7 of the notification to that extent is against the judgment of the Supreme Court. Therefore, we direct the respondent Karnataka Examinations Authority to amend its notification/prospectus for the next year onwards in the light of the Supreme Court's judgment in the case of Anushka Rengunthwar case supra, providing that the OCI cardholders who were born before 04.03.2021 shall be treated on par with Indian citizens for the purpose of admission in professional courses against the Government seats," the bench said.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I, SHREE LAKSHMI G .S. & SREELAKSHMI G. S. W/o Gopalakrishna Rao K.N, residing at No.167, Gangamma Gudi Road, M.V. Extension, Hosakote, Bengaluru - 562114, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as SHREE LAKSHMI G.S. vide affidavit 13.10.2025 before notary B.Hanumantharaya, Bengaluru

CHANGE OF NAME
I, D. RAMAKHRISHNAN residing at No. 375, 6th Main, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my name to RAMAKHRISHNAA vide affidavit dated 14/10/2025, before Notary C.V. Earappa, Bangalore. Henceforth I shall be known as New name RAMAKHRISHNAA only.

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ANNOUNCEMENT
I, Vinod Kumar V S/o Venkateshappa, aged 34 years, residing at #1851/8, 6th Cross, Near Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple, Shanthinagar, Karanjikatte Kolar-563101, declare in my daughter's Birth certificate /Aadhar wrongly mentioned as Vedhanshi.V, instead of her correct name MANVITHA SKANDANSHI. V, vide affidavit dated 14-10-2025 before notary, N.Krishnegowda Kolar. Henceforth she shall be called as MANVITHA SKANDANSHI. V

I, SYEDA TASLEEMA resident of No.145, Ward No.5, Indiranagara, Anekal Town, Bangalore-562106 have changned my name to TASLEEMA vide affidavit dated 10/10/2025 sworn before notary Amaranarayana, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME
I, GOPALA KRISHNA RAO K. N. & GOPAL KRISHNA RAO K. N. S/o Narayana Rao K N, residing at No.167, Gangamma Gudi Road, M.V. Extension, Hosakote, Bengaluru - 562114, declare that the above names pertain to me only. Henceforth I shall be known as GOPALA KRISHNA RAO K. N. vide affidavit 13.10.2025 before notary B.Hanumantharaya, Bengaluru

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Three teens drown in sea in Udupi

UDUPI, DHNS: In a tragic incident, three of four boys who had gone to swim drowned in the sea at Koderi Hosahithlu near Kirimanjeshwar village in Byndoor taluk on Tuesday evening. One of the boys managed to escape safely.

The deceased have been identified as Sanketh Devadiga (18), Sooraj Poojary (16), and Ashish Devadiga (15). Their bodies have been recovered.

It is learned that one of the deceased was a PU student, while the other two were studying in high school. Byndoor PSI Timmesh and his team visited the spot.

Dharmasthala SIT wants to question complainant again

MANGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burial case in Dharmasthala has sought the court's permission to re-question the complainant-witness.

Sources in the SIT told *DH*, "The complainant-witness had earlier been produced before the court and his statements were recorded under Section 183 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). During his initial statements, the complainant-witness had claimed that he was involved in burying around 10 dead bodies. However, the SIT's subsequent investigation revealed that the bodies in question had been legally cremated in the presence of police officials and gram panchayat members. These were not victims of murder or sexual assault, as the complainant-witness had initially claimed."

Given the contradictions in his earlier version, the SIT now intends to re-verify certain parts of his testimony. "The team is not seeking his custody again. We only need permission to visit the Shivamogga prison and question him for a few hours," the sources said.

The magistrate, however, is seeking legal opinions and examining the necessity of another round of questioning.

Lokayukta raids 12 officers, uncovers DA worth Rs 38 crore

Biggest haul at premises of SSERT director in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS

A raid by the Lokayukta police on 12 government officials in different parts of the state on Tuesday unearthed disproportionate assets worth over Rs 38 crore, officials said.

The simultaneous raids were conducted by officials in Bengaluru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri, Bidar, Udupi, Bagalkot and Hassan.

"Searches at the residences, offices and residences of relatives of the concerned accused government officers were conducted, at more than 48 places," the ombudsman said.

The highest of the disproportionate assets (DA), at Rs 7.32 crore, were recovered on the premises of V Sumangala, director, State School Education, Research and Training (SSERT), Hosakerehalli, Bengaluru. She is currently under suspension, officials said.

During searches at six places belonging to her, officials found documents pertaining to four sites, five houses and 19 acres of agricultural land, all worth Rs 5.08 crore.

The rest were movable assets, including vehicles worth Rs 22 lakh and shares and mutual funds worth Rs 96.73 lakh.

Others who were raided are Manjunatha G, medical officer, maternity hospital, Mallasandra, Bengaluru (DA worth Rs 3.24 crore); N K Gangamarigowda, surveyor, KIADB, Bengaluru (Rs 4.66 crore); N Chandrashekar, assistant director of agriculture, Holalkere, Chitradurga (Rs 5.14 cr); Jagadeesh Naika K H, asst engineer, KRIDL, Davangere (Rs 2.04 cr); B S Naduvina Mane, junior assistant, department of food, civil supplies & consumer affairs, Davangere (Rs 2.3 cr); Basavesh Shivappa Shidenur, incharge EO, Savanur taluk panchayat, Haveri (Rs 1.67 cr); Ashok Shankarappa Araleshwar, revenue inspector, taluk office, Ranebennur, Haveri (Rs 2.25 cr); Dhoolappa, asst director, horticulture department, Aurad, Bidar (Rs 3.39 cr); Lakshminarayana P Nayak, RTO, Udupi (Rs 2.21 cr); Chetan, junior engineer, KBJNL, ARBC, division-2, Kamatagi, Bagalakot (Rs 1.67 cr); Jyothi Mary, FDA, accounts section, health & family welfare department, Hassan (Rs 2.17 cr).

Cash and jewellery found in the residence of Ashok Shankarappa Araleshwar, revenue inspector, taluk office, during a Lokayukta raid in Ranebennur of Haveri district on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Unpaid staffer's suicide: It's govt-sponsored murder, says BJP

BENGALURU, DHNS

The suicide of library supervisor Bhagyavathi Aggimath in Kalaburagi due to non-payment of salary is "a government-sponsored murder", the Opposition BJP charged on Tuesday.

"This is a bankrupt government whose sixth guarantee is death by suicide," Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka said, adding that contractors, police officers, borrowers (of microfinance loans) and farmers had died under the governing Congress.

Ashoka also accused the government of trying to "cover up" Aggimath's death note.

"The government will probably constitute one more special investigation team (SIT) and close the case," he said.

According to Ashoka, various state-run corporations should have received Rs 1,800 crore in grants by the government.

"Instead, only Rs 300 crore was given. These corporations could not provide loans and other facilities because of low funding. This is just one example to show that the government is bankrupt," he said.

Ashoka also claimed that doctors at the Sanjay Gandhi hospital in Jayanagar are paid salaries once in two months.

BJP state president BY Vijayendra demanded compensation to the family and jobs for the deceased's dependent children.

"Right from the chief minister to other ministers and officials, all have turned indifferent to people and their problems, focusing only on power politics," Vijayendra charged.

Former deputy chief minister C N Ashwath Narayan targeted Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge.

"The library supervisor worked at an Arivu Kendra that comes under Priyank. She died in Kalaburagi, a district whose minister in charge is Priyank. This is an anti-people government. Citizens are repenting for electing this government," he said.

Get Muslim quota case in SC resolved soon: Panchamasalis to CM

Want to be moved to category-2A which has 15% quota

BENGALURU, DHNS

A large delegation of Panchamasali Lingayats on Tuesday asked Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to bring their community under Category-2A by taking "immediate steps" to sort out a pending Supreme Court case concerning Muslim reservation.

At present, Panchamasalis - they claim to be the largest subcaste of the Lingayats - come under OBC category-3B with 5% reservation. They want to be moved to category-2A, which has 15% reservation.

The previous BJP government had decided to scrap 4% reservation for Muslims under Category-2B. Then Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai argued that the Constitution did not allow religion-based reservation.

A large delegation of Panchamasali Lingayats, led by legislators B R Patil and Vijayananda Kashappanavar, submits a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Vokkaligas from category-3A and Lingayats from category-3B were moved to new categories 2C and 2D, respectively. Categories-3A and 3B were scrapped.

The 4% Muslim reservation was divided equally between Vokkaligas and Lingayats (two percentage points each). This increased Vokkaliga reservation to 6% and Lingayats to 7%, up from 4% and 5%, respectively.

When this decision was challenged before the Supreme Court, the state government said it would maintain status quo. The case is still pending for adjudication.

The Panchamasali Lingayat delegation led by lawmakers B R Patil and Vijayanand Kashappanavar, in a petition to Siddaramaiah, urged the government to get the Supreme Court case cleared. The 200-strong delegation asked Siddaramaiah to obtain a report from the backward classes commission and move the Panchamasali community to category-2A.

"The Panchamasalis are the first followers of Lingayat religion founded by Basavanna," the petition submitted by Akhila Bharata Lingayata Panchamasali Samaja Trust said.

Chaired by Kashappanavar, the Trust said the community was largely agrarian and rural.

"The community is backward. Youngsters of the community remain socially and educationally backward."

Central OBC list

The petition further urged Siddaramaiah to recommend to the union government the inclusion of all Lingayat subgroups in central OBC list.

The Trust also sought financial assistance of Rs 5 crore to build a students' hostel on the premises of Kudalasangama Mutt in Hungund (Bagalkot district).

College of politics in B'luru next June: Horatti

MANGALURU, DHNS: The state legislature is planning to start a degree college in politics in Bengaluru from June 2026, Legislative Council chairman Basavaraja Horatti said on Tuesday.

He told reporters that the syllabus for the three-year course would include political code of conduct and theory.

Retired professors, senior politicians and the general public with knowledge on politics would be consulted while preparing the curriculum, Horatti said. A clear picture would emerge in a month, he added.

Discussions had been held with Assembly Speaker U T Khader in this regard and the matter had been placed before the chief minister, who has promised grants for the planned college, he said.

He said 29,000 teachers' posts were vacant in the state and that there were less than 10 students in 1,900 primary schools. Kannada medium schools were becoming weaker due to the decisions by those in power, the Council chairperson said.

Sullia youth dies in Mauritius; MP seeks Centre's help

MANGALURU, DHNS: A youth from Sullia accidentally slipped and died while visiting a waterfalls in Mauritius on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Nandan S Bhat (25), son of Jayalakshmi from Nadugallu Kallaje near Subrahmanya.

Nandan was in Mauritius on a student visa and was pursuing Diploma in Hospitality and Tourism. The incident occurred when he visited a waterfalls.

Jayalakshmi's brother Satyanarayana Bhat from Karkala has requested Udupi-Chikmagalur MP Kota Srinivas Poojary to arrange for the body to be brought back with the help of government.

The MP has appealed to Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar to take necessary action.

In a letter to Jaishankar, Poojary said the bereaved family was in deep grief and had requested that Nandan's mortal remains be brought back to India at the earliest. "In this regard, I kindly request External Affairs Ministry office to instruct the Indian High Commission in Mauritius to extend all necessary assistance and coordinate for the swift repatriation of his body to India."

The MP has also requested the union minister to provide necessary support and guidance to the bereaved family from the authorities concerned.

MoS rank for D R Patil

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka State Decentralised Planning and Development Committee vice-chairperson D R Patil has been given a Minister of State (MoS) rank, the government said in an order. A senior Congress leader, Patil is a four-time MLA from Gadag.

ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
2ನೇ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, ಸದಾಶಿವನಗರ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ – 562123.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 9663046622 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: nelamangala.pa@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನೆಯೋಪ್ರಾ/ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/ನಿಶೇಪಣೆ/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14–10–2025
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ನಿಧಿ ಒಟ್ಟು ರೂ. 53.50 ಕೋಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಮೀರದಂತೆ ನಿಶ್ಚಿತ ಠೇವಣಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೂಡಿಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ಗಳಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ **TPA/2025-26/AUCTION 58** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಇ-ಹರಾಜು ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಅರ್ಹ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಕೃತ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್‌ನವರು ದಿನಾಂಕ: **21–10–2025** ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು (ಪ್ರ)
ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಯೋಜನೆ,
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಯೋಜನಾ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/3269/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೋ/2025–26

Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Niyamitha
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprises)
O/o The Executive Engineer, CNNL., KCD Division,
T. Narasipura, Mysuru District - 571124
Ph.No. 08227-261362 E-Mail eekcdtnp@yahoo.co.in
Short Term Tender Notification No.12/2025-26, dated: 13-10-2025
Itemwise tenders are invited in KPP-Portal by the Executive Engineer, Kabini Canal Distributory Division, T. Narasipura, Mysuru District on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore from eligible PWD Department registered contractors for 1 Work. All the required documents are to be uploaded along with the tender. Amount put to tender for the work is Rs.65.03 Lakhs. Last date for tender queries / clarification is **18.10.2025** till 4.00 p.m., last date for online submission of tender with EMD is **21.10.2025** till 5.30 p.m. Date of opening of technical bids is **23.10.2025** at 11.00 a.m. Date of opening of Financial bids is **27.10.2025** at 11.00 a.m. For further details, contact the above said during office hours and through kpp-portal by logging in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
CNNL., KCD Division, T. Narasipura.
DIPR/DDMYS/1073/KSMCA/577/2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BANGALORE NAAC A+ Accredited
Estate Office, Naik Bhavan, GKVK, Bengaluru-560065
Phone: GKVK : 2330153-250, Direct : 23332765
Email: eo@uasbangalore.edu.in Website:www.uasbangalore.edu.in
No. EO/SPO/e-Proc/9/2025-26 Date:10.10.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)
The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-1, and KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.
Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date and time for uploading the tender on **24.10.2025 up to 4:00 p.m.** The Technical bid will be opened on **27.10.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** The Financial bid will be opened on **31.10.2025 at 10:30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in** Help Desk- 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 **support@eprochelpdesk.com** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/JA/3254/2025-26 **ESTATE OFFICER**

KARNATAKA STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
Ugrana Bhavan, No.43, Primrose Road, Bangalore-560025.
Fax: 080-23415672, Phone No: 080-23415679
Website : www.karnatakawarehousing.com
SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION
No. KSWC/ENG/199/F-54/2025-2026 Date: 14-10-2025
The Managing Director, Karnataka State Warehousing Corporation, Bangalore invites e-tender for request for propsal only for ENGAGEMENT OF PPP Cell, IDP & IWTD, GoK Empanelled Transaction Advisor as Management Consultant for the **Work of Installation of Rooftop Solar PV Systems on KSWC Warehouses at 52 Centers under PPP Model (Call-2).** The details are available in our website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Date of availability of e-procurement portal on**15.10.2025.** The last date for receipt of proposal is on **24.10.2025 up to 5.30 PM**. The opening of Technical Bid is on **27.10.2025 at 4.30 PM.**
Further details can be obtained from the office of the under signed during working hours and also at website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For any clarification, contact Executive Engineer KSWC (9916981818 / 9740675654).
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3272/AKAR/2025-26 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com
No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/3533 Dated: 14.10.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal district invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-3 & KW-4 on KPP portal for 18 no. of tender works pertaining to Koppal district & Raichur district The Approximate amount for the mentioned works Ranges between Rs.15.00 Lakhs to 935.00 Lakhs. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.
For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **16-10-2025**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **27-10-2025** time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **21-10-2025**, 11.00 Hours at division office koppal, Date & time for opening of technical bid **29-10-2025** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **31-10-2025** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).
Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/391/KSMCA/2025-26

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka,
Nirvachana Nilaya, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Preparation of Electoral Rolls for Teachers' Constituencies of Karnataka Legislative Council
Notice under rule 31(4)of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
In pursuance of rule 31(4) of the Registration of Electors Rules. 1960, each of the Electoral Registration Officers of **1) Bangalore Teachers' Constituency 2) Karnataka North-East Teachers' Constituency,** vide his notice dated **30th September 2025,** called upon every person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of the relevant Teachers' constituency mentioned above, to send to, or deliver at, his office on or before **06th November 2025** (i.e. the last date of receipt of applications) application in Form19 appended to the Registration of Electors Rules,1960 and reproduced in the second schedule of the said notice published in the editions dated 30th September 2025 of **(1) The Times of India 2) The Hindu, 3) Vijaya Karnataka, (4) Prajavani Newspapers.**
All the above mentioned persons may submit their applications in **Form 19 on or before 6th Novermber 2025** (i.e, the last date of receipt of applications), if not already done.
The said details are also available in the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka at **www.ceo. karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/JA/3135/2025-26

ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA
Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka,
Nirvachana Nilaya, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560 001.
Preparation of Electoral Rolls for Graduates' Constituencies of Karnataka Legislative Council
Notice under rule 31(4)of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
In pursuance of rule 31(4) of the Registration of Electors Rules. 1960, each of the Electoral Registration Officers of **1) Karnataka West Graduates' Constituency and 2) Karnataka South East Graduates' Constituency,** vide his notice dated 30th September 2025, called upon every person entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of the relevant Graduates' Constituency mentioned above, to send to, or deliver at, his office on or before **06th November 2025** *(i.e. the last date of receipt of applications)* application in Form18 appended to the Registration of Electors Rules,1960 and reproduced in the second schedule of the said notice published in the editions dated **30th September 2025** of **(1) The Times of India 2) The Hindu, 3) Vijaya Karnataka (4) Prajavani** Newspapers.
All the above mentioned persons may submit their applications in **Form 18 on or before 6th Novermber 2025** *(i.e, the last date of receipt of applications),* if not already done.
The said details are also available in the official website of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka at **www.ceo. karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/JA/3135/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U. R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL AIRPORT ROAD, VIMANAPURA POST, BENGALURU - 560 017.
Phone: 080 2508-4156/4318/4185
BRIEF TENDER NOTICE
1.On behalf of the President of India, item- rate tender is invited for the following works:

Description	Details
Name of work	Non-Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Service Contract (NC-AMSC) for IG-541 Inergen based Gaseous Fire Suppression System at New CATF Building at ISITE Campus, Marathahalli, Bengaluru
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C&MG/E/M/11/2025-26 Dt. 07/10/2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 17.34 Lakhs
Tender Document Details	**E-Tender**
Period of completion in months	Twenty Four (24) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From: 18:10 Hrs on 09/10/2025 To: 23:59 Hrs on 23/10/2025
Bid clarification	From: 19:00 Hrs on 09/10/2025 To: 14:30 Hrs on 24/10/2025
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto: 18:00 Hrs on 27/10/2025
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto: 14:00 Hrs on 29/10/2025
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	14:30 Hrs on 29/10/2025
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 34,680/-**

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**
Sd/-
Group Director, C&MG, URSC

B'luru-bound Amazon orders worth Rs 18 lakh stolen, 4 held

GURUGRAM, PTI: Four men were arrested in Nuh in Haryana for their alleged involvement in robbing a container full of Bengaluru-bound Amazon orders worth Rs 18 lakh from Karnataka, police said.

The stolen goods are yet to be recovered. All four men allegedly involved in the robbery on Friday have been handed over to the Karnataka Police for further probe.

According to police, an FIR was registered in Karnataka on Sunday on the complaint of Rajesh Kumar, an executive of Camions Logistics Solutions Private Limited.

In his complaint, he said the company's vehicle was loaded with Amazon-booked parcels and sent from Mumbai to Bengaluru.

Rajanna terms DKS statement 'height of foolishness'

TUMAKURU, DHNS: Former minister K N Rajanna has termed Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's statement that high command is important to become chief minister, not the MLAs, "height of foolishness."

He told reporters on Tuesday, "It is foolishness that if someone says that the MLAs are not taken into account. The high command should clear all such confusions."

Rajanna said Siddaramaiah is not a nominated chief minister. "He was elected by the MLAs. The party's high command, at the time of changing the chief minister, sends observers and collects the opinions of the MLAs. In this background, Siddaramaiah has said that the opinions of the MLAs are important. The blessing of the high command is also necessary," he said.

He said he has been writing to the high command to meet the party's top brass after being dropped from the Cabinet, but the appointment has not yet been given.

'Buy millets directly from farmers for Indira Kits'

BENGALURU, DHNS: Farmer rights groups on Tuesday urged the state government not to leave its Indira Nutritional Food Kit Scheme in the hands of the private contractors and urged direct procurement.

On October 9, the government decided to provide tur dal/moong dal/cooking oil along with 5 kg of rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme, one of the five guarantees of the government. The move is aimed at saving Rs 306 crore for the government and Rs 630 crore for poor households buying such items from the open market. Raitha Sangha, Raitha Swaraj and other groups urged the government to directly procure ragi, jowar, tur dal, cooking oil and other food materials from farmers.

Orphaned again: Old-age homes left out of 'main phase'

Govt plans 'separate' count; elderly fear losing 'benefits'

A file photo of government centre for destitute at Rayapur, Dharwad. DH PHOTO

CASTE CENSUS CONUNDRUM

ASHWIN BM
BENGALURU, DHNS

Even as enumerators rush to meet the extended deadline for caste census, a gap has emerged, with old-age homes, orphanages and other such institutions being left out of the ongoing 'main phase', with officials indicating that there will be a separate round for them.

The decision to exclude institutional populations from the initial count has raised concerns among the elderly. The reason for the exclusion, according to an official from the survey administration, is procedural.

Representatives from old age homes and orphanages in Bengaluru confirm that survey officials had entirely bypassed them.

Thulasi Maddineni, secretary of the backward classes welfare department, confirmed that old-age homes and orphanages were not covered in the ongoing exercise.

"After completion of the main survey (after October 22-23), the women and child development department will conduct training for supervisors of the respective institutions for their separate survey," she told *DH*.

The officer said talks had been held with institutions under the department for including them in the survey. Private institutions can also get their inmates enumerated if they want to be covered, Maddineni said.

Mallikarjun, a supervisor from Araike Old Age Home in Kaggalipura, said, "No enumerators have come for the survey, but individually my home has been covered. Our institution has over 25 inmates and their Aadhaar cards are with us."

Nandini from Maria Seva Sangha, which houses 16 senior citizens, many of whom have children settled abroad, reported the same situation. "The survey has not been conducted here, but local individual residences were covered".

One representative from an orphanage in JP Nagar was more direct in his criticism.

'Political exercise'

"This is just for political benefits. They are doing it only for namesake. It is a caste survey, but it has other hidden agendas," he said.

The man, an 81-year-old Bengalurean, currently living with his 79-year-old wife at St Augustine old age home, expressed indifference towards the government's exercise.

When asked if he would have liked to be included in the survey, he said, "It doesn't affect me in any way".

One son of the couple lives in the city, while two other children are abroad. "Not really, no," was his response, when asked about availing senior citizen benefits.

The city's elderly population feels disconnected from a government exercise designed to identify and provide for the destitute.

The decision to conduct a separate phase for institutions is causing anxiety among the most vulnerable population, who fear their data will be overlooked, potentially impacting allocation of government benefits and inclusion in welfare schemes.

Count crosses 100% households in 25 districts, but with riders

Numbers 'inflated' due to closed UHIDs, multiple surveys

SUJAY B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 25 of the 31 districts in Karnataka have crossed 100% enumeration of households during the ongoing Social and Educational survey.

This, however, is an inflated figure, as the survey hasn't covered 100% enumeration of persons in any of the districts. There has been a discrepancy between number of households and total number of persons covered.

By Monday night, Chitradurga had the highest enumeration of 122.21% households, followed by Gadag at 119.06%, Haveri at 118.76%, Uttara Kannada at 117.2% and Koppal at 115.24%. These "inflated" numbers are the byproduct of a system of enumeration based on the RR numbers of water bills. They also include many closed UHIDs.

Backward Classes Welfare Principal Secretary Tulasi Maddineni told *DH* that the inflated numbers occurred due to multiple enumerations of the same house in some places.

"In their hurry to finish the enumeration, some teachers did not enumerate all the members of the house but mentioned that the houses were complete (for instance, enumerating only two persons in a household of five while showing the full household as enumeration complete). As a result, the final numbers showed more households but the corresponding number of persons was lower than expected. So, we made them revisit those houses and enumerate, which has resulted in new UHIDs, and also higher numbers," she explained.

As per data from the Backward Classes Commission, UHIDs for 20.79 lakh households have been closed till Monday.

As per data from the Backward Classes Commission, the UHIDs for 20.79 lakh households have been closed till Monday. Maddineni attributed this to cases where certain houses were enumerated by persons who weren't assigned the houses.

"For example, Z's house may have been assigned to A, but B may have enumerated it. Since the house wasn't assigned for B, they would've created a new UHID and enumerated it. In such cases, the house will still come as pending for A. When the RR number will be linked to the new UHID, the original UHID assigned to A is closed as completed," Maddineni added.

An enumerator from KR Nagar taluk in Mysuru district explained that in some houses, there could be two families and two different ration cards but there may be only one sticker. "In such cases, we create another UHID and enumerate the second family," he added.

An enumerator from Dasarahalli in Bengaluru stated that he had completed 191 of the 294 households assigned to him. However, he added that 71 households had already been enumerated in their villages, while 23 UHIDs were those of borewells and similar facilities. "Despite explaining this, we are still being told to complete the enumeration."

By the end of Tuesday, five crore people were surveyed across the state (except GBA) which comes to 91.46% enumeration. In GBA limits, 44.76 lakh households were covered (31.83%).

Survey: Chief Secy asks GBA chief, some DCs to speed up

BENGALURU, DHNS

With merely four days left for the social and educational survey to conclude, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh has written to Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao and deputy commissioners of some districts with less enumeration, to speed up the process.

In her letter dated October 14, the chief secretary said: "The chief minister has checked the progress of districts where the enumeration has been lesser than 80%. Since the survey cannot be extended again, the chief minister has directed respective DCs and their teams to ensure that the enumeration is complete by October 18th."

Shalini Rajneesh

As per the chief secretary's letter to DCs, 80.75% enumeration has been completed across the state (except GBA) while the data by the Backward Classes Commission mentions that 91.46% enumeration has been completed across the state (except GBA).

This difference is because the estimate used by the chief secretary considers the population of Karnataka as around 7.65 crore (6.14 crore excluding GBA), while the commission's estimates are based on the UHIDs. Other estimates project the state's population at around 6.8 crore.

As per official data, Yadgir, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, Kodagu, Ballari, Bidar, Raichur, Mysuru, Chikkaballapur, Dharwad, Vijayanagara, Belagavi, Bengaluru Urban and Kolar had an enumeration lesser than 80%.

The chief secretary wrote a separate letter to Maheshwar Rao, in which she reminded him it was estimated that the survey would be completed in GBA limits by October 18 or 19 if each enumerator completed 15-16 households per day.

"As of October 13, only 30% households were covered and (an enumerator) is covering only 7-8 houses per day. This shows that enumerators are not providing the expected results and the supervisors aren't doing their job properly."

Explaining that it was very difficult to extend the survey, she requested Rao and the five commissioners of the five corporations to provide personal attention to the matter.

With no 'local' Aadhaar, migrants to B'luru from other states fear being left out

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents expressed anguish over the ongoing socio-educational survey (caste census), with data privacy and the enumeration process itself emerging as concerns.

Many fear being left out, especially those from other states, sparking questions about the survey's efficacy.

Suman, an IT professional from West Bengal settled in Bengaluru for the last 13 years, said a lot of people were afraid as they were not aware of the process.

Enumerators who come for the survey don't give proper explanation and seek details in a demanding tone, he said.

"People are skeptical about disclosing their identity," Suman said. As his Aadhaar card is registered in Bengaluru address, he got enumerated.

But most of his friends who have been residing in the city for a few years now, but have their address proof in their respective states, fear being left out of the survey, he said.

Another resident said, "A host of privacy concerns prevail among the people. They are concerned about how data will be used. Some cite a court order, that said giving information is voluntary. So, I assume that there is some hesitation in giving data".

The enumeration process is hampered by wider public concerns. Krishna Kumar, a professional from Kerala, highlighted that many citizens were either unaware of or skeptical about disclosing their identity due to privacy concerns.

"Those of us who have moved to Bengaluru for work feel we are invisible to the system. Our address proof is at home, but our livelihood is here. When the enumerator finds us, we are told we might be left out because our details don't match. This makes us fear that the survey is a tool for exclusion, not inclusion," said another resident with non-local ID proof.

SC stays HC order that set aside Congress MLA's election

Asks ECI to go ahead with vote recount as directed by HC

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Karnataka High Court's order, which set aside the election of K Y Nanjegowda, Congress MLA from Malur in Kolar district.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, however, asked the Election Commission to conduct recounting of the votes polled in the 2023 Assembly elections in terms of the High Court's order and furnish the result in a sealed envelope before this court.

The court's order came after hearing senior advocate A M Singhvi on behalf of Nanjegowda, who contended the High Court framed seven issues in the election petition, but did not decide a single one.

The apex court issued notice to the unsuccessful BJP candidate on whose plea the High Court passed its order in September.

"Meanwhile, the operation of the impugned order of the High Court, to the extent it set aside the election of the appellant, shall remain stayed," the bench said in its order.

Resultantly, the court ordered, the appellant would continue as the elected Member of the Legislative Assembly.

"However, the Election Commission of India is directed to comply with the directions to the extent of recounting of votes and submit the result in a sealed cover before this court. The recounting results shall not be disclosed without the permission of this court," the bench said.

The court's order came after hearing senior advocate A M Singhvi on behalf of Nanjegowda, who contended the High Court framed seven issues in the election petition, but did not decide a single one.

A petition was filed by K S Manjunath Gowda of the BJP, challenging the election, on the alleged irregularities in the Assembly elections.

Gowda lost by a narrow margin of 248 votes in the 2023 elections.

He filed the plea for declaring Nanjegowda's election as void. He also sought recount of votes, and declaring him as the elected candidate.

Gowda alleged votes were improperly accepted in favour of Nanjegowda and votes favouring him were rejected.

The video recordings, which could have verified this, were withheld. The counsel also alleged that the returning officer had not passed any order on the petitioner's recount application.

The High Court allowed his plea, observing that the absence of records from the presiding officer made the election's outcome questionable.

NUTTY AFFAIR

Farmers clean groundnut on the service road of the National Highway on the outskirts of Haveri on Tuesday. DH PHOTO

Officer sent on compulsory leave

CHAMARAJANAGAR, DHNS: Chamarajanagar Municipal Council Commissioner S A Ramadas has been sent on compulsory leave, citing his failure in handling the state government's social, economical and educational survey.

Deputy Commissioner Shilpa Nag stated that Ramadas was deployed as the nodal officer for the socio-economic survey for Chamarajanagar City Municipal Council limits. As Chamarajanagar was lagging behind in the survey, action has been taken against the officer, as per government norms.

Assistant Executive Engineer of the CMC Prakash has taken charge as the in-charge municipal commissioner.

Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates incubation centres at IIT-Dharwad

DHARWAD, DHNS: The transformation of India's digital landscape has resulted in the creation of an enabling environment for start-ups, opined Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Dharwad on Tuesday.

Nirmala, who inaugurated the Dharwad Research and Technology Incubator (dhaRti) and Bionest Incubation Centre on the IIT-Dharwad campus, said that the fillip to the Research and Development (R&D) sector had helped the country retain and harness the capabilities of talented professionals.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacts with a student as she visits stalls of incubated startups at the newly inaugurated dhaRti BioNEST Incubation Centre at IIT Dharwad on Tuesday. PTI PHOTO

Acknowledging India's considerable investment in providing quality higher education, Nirmala said, "We produced a pool of skilled professionals. But limited opportunities in the past forced nearly two generations to seek brighter prospects abroad."

Underscoring the Government of India's commitment to nurturing innovation over the past eight years, the Finance Minister added, "Significant funding for R&D has resulted in opportunities being created at home."

Exhorting young innovators to prioritise creativity over profitability, Nirmala said, "The core business for young innovators should be innovation. Profits will follow in due course, but innovation must come first. The government is committed to creating an ecosystem that nurtures innovative talent."

A sum of Rs 5.29 crore from the Finance Minister's MPLADS corpus had been disbursed for the dhaRti incubation centre.

MoEF officials say no to mining in Tumakuru forests

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a development that comes as a saviour for the vitiated Thirtharampura Reserve Forest in Chikkanayakanahalli, Tumakuru district, the regional office of the union environment ministry has recommended the rejection of the proposal to restart the 'C' category mine which was shut down in 1999.

The dry deciduous forest in the Janeeru Block is home to sloth bear, leopard, wild boar, black buck, hyena and wolf among other animals. It is part of the 2,427 acres granted to Sarangapani Mudaliar in the 1950s. After the end of the lease in 1999, the government granted about 1,725 acres to several companies, including 119 acres to Mineral Enterprises Private Limited (MEPL).

However, confusion over the classification of the area as forest led to the delay in further processing of the matter. After a protracted legal battle in the high court and Supreme Court, the company applied for forest clearance.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) had sought inspection of two mines adjacent to the area leased to MEPL. The then Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central) R Padmawathe, who conducted the inspection, flagged importance of protecting the area.

"It is suggested that this area need not be diverted for mining keeping the watershed point of view, apart from above mentioned reasons," he said, listing the regeneration of forest, sightings of wildlife like sloth bears and chital and because it shelters the migratory population from Bannerghatta National Park".

Deputy Inspector General of Forests Praneetha Paul, who conducted the inspection of area sought by MEPL, cited scientific studies to state that the forest was home to 126 native and endemic species of plants, including medicinal.

"Moreover, human-wildlife conflict compensation details of Chikkanayakanahalli range for the past 10 years (2015-16 to 2025-26) revealed more than 380 cases, including elephants. Hence initiation of mining activity in these forests would further aggravate human-wildlife conflicts," she said.

Activist Giridhar Kulkarni, who had written to the state and central authorities to reject the mining proposal, thanked the union ministry.

"When our forests are under tremendous pressure from development projects — and at a time when most proposals are being cleared — such decisions are extremely rare. This underscores that wildlife conservation is a never-ending challenge," he said.

Why are roads so bad...

Kiran, From Page 1

"I have just come from China and can't understand why India can't get its act together especially when the winds are favourable," she posted.

"Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw knows that the government is filling up potholes at a cost of Rs 1,000 crore. So, her tweet was not necessary. And, what is the intention behind saying these things again and again?" Patil told reporters.

"Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw need not panic. Let her take up some work under CSR in her area," Patil said.

According to Patil, the Congress government inherited the pothole problem from the previous BJP administration. "We are doing it (filling up of potholes) and it will take time," he said.

Describing Bengaluru as a "growing and global city", Patil pointed to traffic snarls in London and San Francisco. "In London, we took 2.5 hours to cover two miles," he said.

The minister said pressure on Bengaluru grew with people from other Indian states coming into the city.

"We have people from Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh coming...particularly in the IT sector. They buy a flat, a car...pressure on Bengaluru builds. That doesn't mean we're escaping from our responsibility," Patil said, adding that said only 5% of people from Karnataka go to states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu.

Patil expressed confidence that no company would leave Bengaluru citing bad infrastructure. "Who has left? Other states keep wooing investors. Bengaluru has the ecosystem and talent. There is no question of anyone leaving," he said, adding that it was the S M Krishna-led Congress government that made Bengaluru a global city.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar defended the city's progress and government efforts. "A sum of Rs 1,100 crore has been sanctioned for road repairs, 10,000 plus potholes identified, and over 5,000 already fixed on priority," the DCM added.

He also highlighted the proposal to undertake major redevelopment projects between Central Silk Board and KR Puram and the construction of elevated corridors.

Under the newly empowered Greater Bengaluru Authority, he said East Corporation will now retain Rs 1,673 crore of its own revenues to directly improve infrastructure in 50 wards, including key IT corridors. "Instead of tearing Bengaluru down, let us build it up together."

Priyank's RSS diatribe: Ambition clothed in ideological loyalty?

Steering clear of camps, 'he may like to be compromise choice for CM post'

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge has sought to chisel out a sharp ideological position, aligned to the line pursued by the party high command, especially Rahul Gandhi, by opening up a confrontation with RSS.

He has sought a ban on activities of the organisation on government premises. This comes amidst the power struggle in the state Congress.

By taking a clear and categorical line against the Sangh, Priyank, son of party president Mallikarjun Kharge, has not just put the ball in CM's court by demanding direct action against the Sangh, but has also stepped out of the current cohort of CM aspirants, some of whom have been embroiled in controversies over their remarks on RSS.

Priyank Kharge

"Priyank seems to be positioning himself as someone who is in sync with the party's ideology. If the churn happens, he wants to be counted as a neutral, yet ideologically committed contender," says a senior Congress leader in Delhi.

Activities have picked up in the state Congress, with a section rooting for the implementation of the much-discussed 'power sharing arrangement' between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, once the Bihar elections are over.

Amidst the alignments and adjustments being worked out in anticipation of a 'November-kranti' (revolution), the lineup for a compromise candidate in case of an impasse has grown with each passing day.

If Congress decides to burnish its social justice plank amidst growing demand for appointing a Dalit CM, Gandhi family loyalists like Home Minister G Parameshwara would come into contention.

From the CM's camp, Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa or PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi too would enter the fray.

All three, Parameshwara, Mahadevappa and Jarkiholi, have been invited in the past few months, whenever MLAs from the CM's camp have met. Priyank has been conspicuously absent at these meetings.

He has maintained equidistance from the camps of both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, taking a neutral position on power sharing. While others bicker over leadership, he's sought to rake up ideological issues.

Interestingly, Mallikarjun Kharge was long in contention for the post of Karnataka chief minister.

With Siddaramaiah switching from JD(S) to Congress in 2006, Kharge senior had to shift base to Delhi. In the past, even he could have been a compromise candidate. Now in his mid-80s, that ship has sailed.

Priyank, who already holds two important portfolios (RDPR and IT&BT), has since tried to consolidate his position among the current lot of GenNext leaders of the Congress in the state.

10-lane tunnel to run under Lalbagh: DPR

Lalbagh, From Page 1

In May this year, the government-constituted expert committee had expressed serious concerns about the tunnel road's alignment, citing the ecological sensitivity of the region in Lalbagh. The committee recommended relocating the shaft elsewhere, but this recommendation has not yet been implemented.

Unlike Namma Metro's Hebbal–Sarjapur line, which is proposed to run mostly beneath existing roads to reduce damage to property, the tunnel road alignment passes not only beneath the garden but also under residential and commercial areas from Central Silk Board to Hebbal.

A senior official from Bangalore Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-SMILE) said the six acres needed for the tunnel road would be used temporarily. "A majority of the land will be restored and returned as it is. The shaft is proposed on barren land inside the garden, and there is no threat to the rock formation," he said, adding this is also the location where the Horticulture Department had earlier proposed a multi-level car parking facility.

Urging the government to drop the project, Rajkumar Dugar, convener of Citizens for Citizens, described Lalbagh not just as a garden, but as a living museum of greenery, playing a vital role in conservation, education, and recreation. "The project will damage the entire ecosystem here, since the likelihood of irreversible and unacceptable harm is high. Trees will be cut. Apart from Lalbagh's flora and fauna, its soil, water, air, lake, and rock will all bear the brunt," he said.

AP bags Google AI project...

Vizag, From Page 1

According to Andhra Pradesh officials, land parcels have already been earmarked in record time—160 acres at Rambilli, 120 acres at Adavivaram and Mudasarlova, and 200 acres at Tharluvada in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalle districts—along with 15 acres for a cable landing station.

The incentives also include a 10% capital subsidy on plant and machinery for 10 years capped at Rs 2,129 crore, 30% discount on OPGW fiber access for 20 years with Rs 282 crore limit and 100% SGST reimbursement on construction and leasing costs for 10 years that comes to Rs 2,245 crore and Rs 1,745 crore limits, respectively.

Additional sops feature a 25% water tariff subsidy for 10 years, waiver of Right of Way (RoW) fees for 20 years with Rs 175 crore limit, and full reimbursement for electrical infrastructure upgradation with Rs 500 crore limit.

Google will also benefit from a Rs 1 per unit power tariff subsidy for 15 years with Rs 4,800 crore limit, 100% electricity duty exemption for 15 years with Rs 1,200 crore limit, and waiver of transmission charges imposed by the state energy department for 20 years with Rs 4,000 crore limit.

The proposal from Google also progressed at lightning speed Following several rounds of formal and informal discussions, Google's Indian affiliate Raiden Infotech submitted its official proposal to the Andhra Pradesh government on August 22.

Following that, files moved rapidly and reached the State Investment Promotion Committee on October 7. The proposal was then placed before the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on October 8, which approved a tailor-made incentive package for the Google project. The very next day, the state Cabinet gave its final approval, completing the process in record time.

Sources close to Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh said the state's "bankable execution framework" and issuance of Government Orders on investment and land allotment beyond conventional MoUs helped clinch the deal. "Recent mega investments by ArcelorMittal, Bharat Forge, and BPCL across data centres, technology, energy, and tourism sectors reinforce Andhra Pradesh's strong execution record," sources added.

For Visakhapatnam, being designated as a landing site is expected to spur further connectivity and investment along India's eastern coastline. Tech industry experts pointed out that Visakhapatnam's selection could also reduce the load on existing, overburdened subsea cable landing stations in Mumbai and Chennai.

In addition to Google, Meta has also chosen Visakhapatnam, alongside Mumbai, as a landing site for its multibillion-dollar subsea cable initiative, Project Waterworth.

'Getting threat calls, abuses for questioning RSS'

BENGALURU, DHNS

IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge claimed on Tuesday that he was receiving threat calls after he called for a ban on the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) from using public places for its activities, including parks and playgrounds.

"For the past two days, my phone hasn't stopped ringing. Calls filled with threats, intimidation and the filthiest abuse directed at me and my family, simply because I dared to question and restrain RSS activities in government schools, colleges and public institutions," Priyank said in a tweet.

"But I'm neither shaken nor surprised. When the RSS didn't spare Mahatma Gandhi or Babasaheb Ambedkar, why would they spare me?" Priyank, the son of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, said.

On October 4, Priyank wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking a prohibition on RSS holding activities on government properties.

"An organisation named the RSS has been using government and aided schools and public government grounds for shakas, and, through sloganeering, has been developing thoughts in the minds of children and youths against the integrity of the country and the intentions of the Constitution," Priyank wrote.

Siddaramaiah has directed Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh to examine Priyank's appeal.

Priyank said he cannot be silenced. "If they think threats and personal jibes will silence me, they are mistaken. This has just begun," he said.

"It is time to build a society founded on the principles of Buddha, Basavanna and Babasaheb, a society rooted in equality, reason and compassion and purge this nation of the most dangerous viRuSS (sic)," he said.

When contacted, Priyank said he received calls from international or masked numbers. Asked if he would lodge a complaint, the minister said: "There's no point. The last time I complained, the Union government wrote to the state saying masked IP addresses can't be traced."

The Opposition BJP has slammed Priyank for seeking a ban on the RSS's activities in public places. "Successive Congress governments have repeatedly planned and plotted to ban the RSS, but have failed utterly every time - owing to the RSS ideology of nationalism and social reform always triumphing over the sinister, anti-national designs of the Congress," Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra said.

Govt employees must be barred from participating in RSS events: Dinesh

BELAGAVI, DHNS: Days after Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge called for a ban on RSS activities on the premises of government offices, his Cabinet colleague Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Tuesday said that the government employees must be barred from participating in the Sangh's programmes.

"RSS is a political and not a social organisation. Leaders of the RSS are behind propping up and dislodging governments. Since leaders of the RSS contest elections, how can it claim to be a social organisation? Government employees should be barred from participating in RSS events," said Rao.

Bihar BJP list: Speaker among...

Bihar, From Page 1

To smoothen matters, Chaudhary had announced that the seat-sharing impasse among NDA parties has been resolved "through amicable discussions".

"The discussion on which party will contest which seat is also in its final stages with positive talks," he said.

The BJP had announced a seat sharing deal on Sunday — the BJP and JD(U) will contest on 101 seats each, marking the first time the BJP will fight on as many seats as the JD(U). While Chirag has been given 29 seats, both HAM and RSLP will contest on six seats each in tthe 243-member Assembly

Elections will be held in two phases — on November 6 and 11 — while the counting of votes will take place on November 14.

The last date for filing nominations for 121 seats going to the polls in the first phase is October 17, while the deadline for 122 seats in the second phase is October 20.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at many places over South Interior and North Interior Karnataka and some places over Coastal Karnataka
Forecast Oct 15: Rainfall to occur at some places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	30	18.4	00
Bidar	29	20	00
Vijayapura	32	18	00
Dharwad	31	17.5	00
Haveri	32	19.4	00
Kalaburagi	32.6	22.1	00
Raichur	31	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	31.8	22.6	00
Karwar	35.6	23.6	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	31.7	24	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	31.8	19.5	00
Bengaluru	30.1	21.3	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	30.9	20.7	00
Davangere	31	20	00
Hassan	32.1	19.2	00
Mysuru	31.4	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	29.4	19.2	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	32.6	19	00
Kolkata	32.7	24.5	00
Mumbai	34.4	21.6	00
Chennai	33.4	26.4	0.9
Pune	32.5	18	00
Hyderabad	29.7	22.3	00
Th'puram	33.4	24.7	04

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
7th Floor, 3rd Gate, M.S. Building,
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001

No: ED/405/UBV/2025(Part-1) Date:14.10.2025

Selection of Vice-Chancellor for Bangalore North University, Tamaka, Kolar.

Invitation of Applications for the Post of Bangalore North University, Tamaka, Kolar as per Section 14(2) of Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000.

The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore North University, Tamaka, Kolar. The Applications should be submitted within Thirty days (30) from the date of publication of this notification. The detailed application form and further details are available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Deputy Secretary to Government
Higher Education Department (Universities)

DIPR/CP/JA/3237/2025-26

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU-01

No: HCC No.8/2025 Date: 13.10.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited by the High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru for **"Cyber Workstation alongwith different Software and setting up of a Cyber Forensic Laboratory/ Specialized Centre"** in the Karnataka Judicial Academy through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of Centre for e-Governance, Government of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

The last date to upload the tender is fixed as **29.10.2025 at 4:00 p.m.** For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/searchTender/live** website.

Sd/-
(N.G.Dinesh)
Registrar (Computers) and
Tender Inviting & Accepting Authority,
High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3250/MAA/2025-26

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR DISTRICT BIDAR

No: DPI/2025-26/SE0388 Date: 09/10/2025

SHORT TERM E-TENDER

PROVIDING MAN POWER SERVICE FOR SSK DPO BIDAR OFFICE. DISTRICT PROGRAMMER, TALUKA PROGRAMMER, TALUKA DATA ENTRY OPERATOR, TALUKA ACCOUNT ASSISTANT, TALUKA GROUP-D & DISTRICT NIGHT WATCHMEN

TENDER TIME TABLE:- 1) Tender Amount Rs: **56.04** lakhs, 2) Last Date & Time for submitting Tender Document on or before. **Date:30/10/2025 Time: 5.00 PM,** 3) Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid **Date:31/10/2025 Time: 5.15 PM,** 4) Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid **Date:03/11/2025 Time:11.00 PM,** 5) E.M.D **Rs:50,000/-,** 6) Contact No:9448999330, 7) Website address www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DDPI & EX-OFFICO DPO SSK BIDAR
Bidar Dist.Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/202/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYAT BELAGAVI
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHIKKODI
Office Phone No. : 08338-272131, Email:preckdee@gmail.com

No. PRE/CKD/Db/kppp/2024-25/4723 Date: 10.10.2025

Kppp: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka State, Item Rate (Technical bids and Financial bids through E-Mode), E-Bids are invited for the following works through standard tender document KW-1, KW-2, KW-3, KW-4 (Standard Tender Document) from the eligible Contractors, registered in P.R.E. Department & with kppp registration Bangalore, on "**turn-key**", basis only.

1)	Last date of request for issue of blank e-bid document through e-procurement Date: Other works	10.10.2025 at 24.10.2025
2)	Bid Closing & Submission Date : Other works	24.10.2025 at 04.00 pm
3)	Tender Opening Date: Other works	27.10.2025 at 11.00 am
4)	Pre-Bid Meeting Date: (KW-3 & 4 Works Only)	23.10.2025 at 05.00 pm
5)	Technical Bid Opening Date: (KW-3 & 4 Works Only)	27.10.2025 at 11.00 am
6)	Financial Bid Opening Date : (KW-3 & 4 Works only)	29.10.2025 at 11.00am

General Works Indent No's	19408,19531,18562,18561,18571,16506,15717,19520
SC Works Indent No's	18732
ST Works Indent No's	--
Category 1 Works Indent No's	19293
Category 2 A Works Indent No's	19151, 18225

1)	Last date of request for issue of blank e-bid document through e-procurement Date: Other works	10.10.2025 at 31.10.2025
2)	Bid Closing & Submission Date : Other works	31.10.2025 at 04.00 pm
3)	Tender Opening Date: Other works	03.11.2025 at 11.00 am
4)	Pre-Bid Meeting Date: (KW-3 & 4 Works Only)	30.10.2025 at 05.00 pm
5)	Technical Bid Opening Date: (KW-3 & 4 Works Only)	03.11.2025 at 11.00 am
6)	Financial Bid Opening Date : (KW-3 & 4 Works only)	05.11.2025 at 11.00am

General Works Indent No's	19167, 17850, 19212, 18038, 14805, 14806, 19211, 16857, 17522, 19250, 19256, 18304, 19495, 19163, 19050, 19057, 19064, 19058, 19044, 19046, 19069, 19456, 19524, 18733, 18734, 17140, 17139, 19389, 17141, 17487, 17484, 17490, 17435, 16409, 16582, 19053, 17556, 17554, 7992
SC Works Indent No's	18323, 19169, 19214, 13344, 19497, 19496, 19068, 19045, 19407, 18609
ST Works Indent No's	19253, 19492, 18608,
Category 1 Works Indent No's	18529
Category 2 A Works Indent No's	19168, 17170, 18456, 19059, 19215, 19387, 19526, 18906

RDPR/2024-25/IND5281, 10th call	RDPR/2024-25/IND5282, 11th call	RDPR/2024-25/IND9755, 4th call
RDPR/2024-25/IND 4896, 11th call	RDPR/2024-25/IND 4899, 12th call	

For Further details, the agencies may contact the office of the undersigned during office hours, or may visit web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P.R.E. Division, Chikodi

DIPR/BGM/RO NO-**1176**/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಕಛೇರಿ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಎಚ್.ಡಿ.ಎಮ್.ಸಿ./61/12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13–10–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ / ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಸನ್ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಡ ವಾರು ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಸನ್ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತ ಅಮೃತ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸನ್ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಆದೇಶ 1999 –2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಡಿ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 1) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49900, ರೂ. 13.10 ಲಕ್ಷ, 2) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 42560, ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 3) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49901, ರೂ. 16.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಕ್ಯಾಟಗರಿ – 1 ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 4) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49897, ರೂ. 20.00 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಕ್ಯಾಟಗರಿ – 2ಎ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 5) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49589, ರೂ. 41.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, 6) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 50150, ರೂ. 7.60 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 7) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49469, ರೂ. 48.50 ಲಕ್ಷ, 8) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49902, ರೂ. 7.60 ಲಕ್ಷ, 9) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49895, ರೂ. 13.50 ಲಕ್ಷ, 10) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49588, ರೂ. 6.85 ಲಕ್ಷ, 11) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 50237, ರೂ. 48.75 ಲಕ್ಷ, 12) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49466, ರೂ. 8.91 ಲಕ್ಷ, 13) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49857, ರೂ. 111.76 ಲಕ್ಷ, 14) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 50510, ರೂ. 111.76 ಲಕ್ಷ, 15) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 50495, ರೂ. 200.00 ಲಕ್ಷ, 16) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 49858, ರೂ. 322.92 ಲಕ್ಷ.

ಮರು ಕರೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು : ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ : 17) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 43162 ರೂ. 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ), 18) ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. : 44156 ರೂ. 15.00 ಲಕ್ಷ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ).

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 07 & 18ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 28–10–2025 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 07 & 18ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29–10–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 06 & 08 ರಿಂದ 15 ಹಾಗೂ 17 ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31–11–2025 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 01 ರಿಂದ 06 & 08 ರಿಂದ 15 ಹಾಗೂ 17 ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 03–11–2025ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 02 & 13 ರಿಂದ 15ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 07–11–2025 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 13 ರಿಂದ 15ರ ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–10–2025, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 16ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17–11–2025 ರಂದು ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 16ರ ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–11–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 16ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–11–2025 ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 13 ರಿಂದ 15ರ ಪೂರ್ವಬಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–10–2025

ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಅವಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ) ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಚೇರಿಯ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 0836:2213834ನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲದ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16–10–2025 ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಉತ್ತರ),
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/761/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

A necessary reset with Kabul

Afghanistan's foreign minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, is on a visit to India while clashes intensify on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border and tension escalates between the two countries with a fresh trading of charges. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan have claimed severe damage to each other, including the killing of many soldiers and fighters. Muttaqi even issued a warning to Pakistan from Indian soil. The mending of relations between New Delhi and Kabul has strategic import and is pegged to the principle that an enemy's enemy is a friend. India is set to upgrade its mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy and has pledged to resume full diplomatic relations. These moves are being made when international sanctions against Afghanistan are in place. For context, the UN Security Council had waived a travel ban on Muttaqi, who is on a list of international terrorists, to enable him to visit India.

India has had a chequered relationship with Afghanistan, where New Delhi now has major investments, especially in the infrastructure sector, and has extended humanitarian and other aid. A large part of this aid is in the form of food. India is trying to revive ties that were disrupted by the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan. It has supported Afghanistan, along with Russia and China, on the issue of the Bagram air base, which United States President Donald Trump wants to take over. China already has a footprint in Afghanistan, and India's efforts to improve bilateral relations with that country are grounded in a new geopolitical reality. It is a situation similar to the Great Game, and India has to ensure that it is not left behind, especially when its relations with Pakistan are fraught and there is uncertainty over its equations with China.

India's engagement with Taliban-led Afghanistan reflects a shift to meet new geopolitical realities

The joint statement commits both countries to develop their relations in all areas and, hopefully, these will see steady improvement. Muttaqi has declared that his country will never be used as a base for cross-border terrorism against India and condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. Both countries have emphasised "respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity". This is important in view of the territorial and other disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, and those between India and Pakistan. The two countries also plan to develop economic and trade relations, though trade is at present limited by the US sanctions on Iran's Chabahar port. Improving relations with Afghanistan is important not only in the India-Pakistan context but also in view of India's troubled ties with its other neighbours in South Asia.

In bold text: Dispose with respect

Every day, Bengaluru discards nearly nine lakh sanitary pads, most of which end up mixed with dry waste. What ought to be treated as hazardous material is carelessly tossed into bins, exposing pourakarmikas and over 22,000 informal waste-pickers to infection and indignity. It was in 2016 that the erstwhile BBMP first urged residents to segregate sanitary pads, diapers, and medical waste. However, nearly a decade later, segregation remains abysmally poor. Residents continue to mix medical waste with household garbage or dump it in neighbourhood blackspots. At the end of this broken chain stand the city's informal waste-pickers, men and women who handle rubbish with bare hands, often without gloves or masks, sifting through rotting piles that conceal bloodied pads, syringes and shards of glass. Many suffer infections, cuts, and chronic illnesses, even as their labour remains invisible and undervalued.

When citizens wrap sanitary pads and used syringes in flimsy plastic or newspaper, they disregard the health of those who keep the city clean. Unmarked and unsegregated medical waste carries a real risk of transmitting blood-borne diseases, while contaminating recyclable material that could otherwise sustain the livelihoods of informal waste-pickers. The #MarkItRed campaign, which encourages people to wrap sanitary and medical waste in paper, mark it with a red cross, and hand it over separately, has shown what responsible citizenship can achieve. In parts of JP Nagar, nearly 60% of such waste is now being disposed of correctly – proof that awareness, when backed by simple instruction, can spark behavioural change. This needs to be adopted across the state.

Poor segregation of hazardous waste in Bengaluru exposes handlers to serious health risks

Unfortunately, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is yet to establish a robust, city-wide protocol for the collection and disposal of domestic medical waste. There are no dedicated bins for hazardous household waste, and even where segregation occurs, it is often mixed during transportation or at secondary collection points. The absence of standardised systems not only endangers workers but also nullifies citizens' efforts to comply. The safe disposal of medical and sanitary waste is not a peripheral concern; it lies at the heart of urban public health and social equity. Civic authorities must urgently install designated bins for medical waste, train collectors in proper handling, and ensure that sanitation workers are equipped with protective gear. However, the apathy of the citizens remains the biggest stumbling block. Residents, too, must realise that their responsibility begins at home. Marking waste red is not a token gesture. It is a moral act of respect towards those who bear the city's burden every single day.

THE DEFENCE WITHIN

T cells and a breakthrough that reshaped immunology

The 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine recognises findings that redefine immunity as a dynamic balance between attack and restraint

ANURAG AGARWAL

The immune system is a marvel. It recognises and destroys an almost infinite range of foreign and dangerous agents while sparing the body's own cells and tissues. Failure of either task leads to disease or death. It is no wonder that more than ten Nobel Prizes in Physiology or Medicine have been awarded for discoveries in immunology.

In 1960, Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet and Peter Brian Medawar received the prize for their discovery of acquired immunological tolerance. They showed that during embryonic life, the immune system learns to tolerate "self" – the molecules present on host cells – including any foreign cells introduced at that stage. This process, called central tolerance, occurs in the thymus, a small organ behind the breastbone that trains immune cells. It was believed to be complete within a few days of birth. Autoimmune diseases, where the immune system attacks host tissues, were therefore thought to result from an unfortunate failure of this early deletion process.

As a young researcher, Shimon Sakaguchi was fascinated by the thymus. In the 1970s, he became interested in what happened when scientists removed the thymus from newborn mice within a few days after birth. By all logic, nothing dramatic should have occurred. The thymus was assumed to have finished its work by that time. Yet the removal of the thymus in newborn mice led to a devastating autoimmune disease, with the immune system turning against host organs.

Puzzled, Sakaguchi spent years chasing the answer. Eventually, he realised the thymus did more than just eliminate harmful cells – it also produced a special group of "peacekeeper" cells that actively prevented such attacks. These regulatory T cells, or Tregs, became the focus of intense debate. The cells he described had no clear molecular identity, other than CD4 and CD25 surface markers shared with other T cells. Many immunologists dismissed them as simply activated effector T cells, not a distinct regulatory lineage.

Several senior scientists, influenced by the Nobel Prize-winning work on central tolerance, rejected the notion of active "peripheral suppression," maintaining that immune tolerance arose solely from the deletion or inactivation of self-reactive cells. Without a defining molecular marker of Tregs, replication of research findings was difficult, and skepticism persisted for years about the existence of this new T cell population.

The missing link in Sakaguchi's mystery came from another direction – a rare and fatal human disorder known

as IPEX (Immune dysregulation, Polyendocrinopathy, Enteropathy, X-linked). Infants with IPEX develop uncontrolled autoimmune inflammation that destroys the intestines, pancreas, and skin within months of birth. Their immune systems clearly lacked a vital braking mechanism, but no one knew what it was.

The answer to this puzzle came from Dr Mary Brunkow and Dr Fred Ramsdell, then working at Celltech Chiroscience, a biotechnology company near Seattle. They were studying a peculiar strain of mice that developed a similarly violent autoimmune disorder – the "scurfy" mice – whose immune systems attacked their own tissues so severely that they survived only a few weeks.

After years of painstaking work, Brunkow and Ramsdell identified the missing gene: FOXP3, a transcription factor that switches on the genetic programme for regulatory T cells. Without it, Tregs never develop. The disease in their mice turned out to be the counterpart of human IPEX syndrome, both caused by FOXP3 mutations. This discovery, published in 2001, provided the long-sought molecular proof that the cells Sakaguchi had described were indeed a distinct lineage – the body's own peacekeeping force. FOXP3 became the defining marker of regulatory T cells and the master regulator of immune tolerance.

The implications were profound. In autoimmune disease, defective or depleted Tregs unleash the immune attack. In cancer, tumours exploit Tregs to suppress anti-tumour immunity. Understanding FOXP3 has since enabled efforts to design therapies that either boost Tregs to restore tolerance or inhibit them to enhance tumour immunity.

A prize for inquiry, perseverance

When the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine honoured Sakaguchi, Brunkow, and Ramsdell for these discoveries, it recognised not just the solution to a decades-old mystery but also a shift in how we view immunity itself. The immune system is no longer seen as a simple on-off switch. It is a finely tuned thermostat, balancing attack and restraint every moment of life.

The story of regulatory T cells is also a lesson in scientific perseverance. For almost two decades, Sakaguchi's findings were met with skepticism. Yet he persisted, guided by careful observation, elegant experiments, and quiet conviction. His journey reminds us that breakthroughs often emerge not from new technology alone but from challenging accepted wisdom and asking uncomfortable questions.

The field continues to advance rapidly. Researchers are now exploring how Tregs could be harnessed to treat autoimmune diseases, transplant rejection, allergies, and neuroinflammation, while others seek to block them in cancer therapy to strengthen the immune attack on tumours.

In the end, the discovery of Tregs stands as a tribute to both the elegance of the immune system and the tenacity of scientific inquiry. It shows that even the body's fiercest defences depend on restraint and that in science, as in life, progress often begins with the courage to see what others overlook.

(The writer is Dean, BioSciences and Health Research, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University, and Head, Koita Centre for Digital Health at Ashoka)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

No ticket to this custody

The night of *The Ten Commandments* turned into quite a walk

SRIDHAR SACHIDANANDA

I spent five years in Mysuru, the city of palaces, during university. Among the many things that happened then, the memory of one escapade is still fresh in my mind. Three of us—Sudhir, Pradeep and I—roommates and all studying for bachelor's degrees—went to watch a late-night movie.

We decided to treat ourselves to a classic that was playing in Sterling Talkies—one of the only two cinemas in Mysuru then that featured Hollywood movies. Skyline was the other. We watched *The Ten Commandments*. I must have watched the movie 50 times since, in the last 30 years. Simply love the cinematography! Especially the Red Sea parting.

We watched the four-hour movie with two intervals and ate cheap popcorn that cost us Rs 2 a piece. My monthly allowance then was Rs 600 deposited in my savings account by my magnanimous father, and it was quite a sum then that afforded an occasional chicken dinner, some beer, and a movie.

After watching the magnificent epic, we began our six km walk back to Maharaja College Hostel, where we had our rooms. It was mostly a peaceful walk. Mysuru in those days was a quaint city that went to bed at 8 pm. There was hardly any crime, no traffic, and the city police had little work to do. They were ornamental.

But it was our fate that we had to encounter a night beat police constable who took his job a trifle too seriously. "Hello, mister! What are you doing on the empty streets during this hour?" the constable barked. He was armed with a lathi that he brandished. I was scared because this was my first encounter with a policeman. My companions were shaken too, but they kept their mouths shut—wise guys. I told the police officer that we were returning home from the cinema.

"Show me the ticket (counterfoil)!" the constable ordered. Immediately, I turned to Sudhir and confidently said, "Su, show him the ticket." At that, Sudhir turned to Pradeep and said, "Give him the ticket!" And Pradeep said what we feared the most—"I don't have it!"

So, I said to the police officer, "Sir, we don't have the ticket. Please see what can be done." I was trying to bribe him because, years before becoming a crime reporter, I believed that all policemen and women could be bribed. "What shall I see?!" he bellowed with a good measure of unprintable profanities thrown in.

We were taken to the Lakshmi Puram police station and booked for 'wandering in the night'. We spent one hour in the police station and went back to the hostel as free men. Just like the Jewish slaves released from bondage in the movie.

Wonder what would have been different if one of us had retained the cinema ticket counterfoil. It would not have been such a wonderful memory for sure.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good roads also a matter of economic, social justice

This refers to your editorial 'Bengaluru seeks intent, not excuses' (Oct 14). It aptly highlights the need for better road infrastructure in Bengaluru. The city's poor road conditions cause daily hardships, economic losses, and damage to its reputation. The man-hours lost in commuting, and the mental, physical, emotional, and financial stress citizens undergo due to poor roads must no longer be ignored. Good roads are not just an infrastructural necessity but also a matter of economic and social justice. While the government must take responsibility for maintaining roads, citizens also have a role to play in avoiding hazards and civic indiscipline. With better coordination between the administration and the public, Bengaluru can have durable, quality roads. Proper governance and responsible civic behaviour can ensure optimal use of resources and prevent unnecessary suffering.
T V Gopalakrishnan, Bengaluru

A fair critique

Apropos 'Bengaluru seeks intent, not excuses (Oct 14), the editorial is commendable for its balanced critique of the Deputy CM's handling of civic issues. The editorial rightly criticises the Deputy CM's defensive stance and calls for decisive action. By acknowledging his leadership skills, the editorial provides a nuanced assessment of the situation. As a watchdog of governance, the media plays a crucial role in holding those in power accountable for their actions.
Sulochana D L, Bengaluru

Disappointing

Apropos 'SC bins plea for SIT probe...' (Oct 14), the Congress' arguments for an SIT probe were compelling, given the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls. Instead of a summary dismissal, the Court should have intervened to direct the EC to take action. The EC's inaction on the matter is concerning, and one expects the Court to hold it accountable. By dismissing the plea and asking the petitioner to approach the EC, the Court has left justice-seekers with little recourse.
S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Weakened RTI

The RTI Act has lost its effectiveness due to a lack of will and poor implementation. Many government departments delay or deny responses, while information commissions face staff shortages and backlogs. Whistleblowers and RTI activists face threats without adequate protection.
Ayushman Pandey, Lucknow

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

No company will leave Bengaluru citing bad infrastructure. Who has left? Other states keep wooing investors. Bengaluru has the ecosystem and talent. There's no question of anyone leaving.
M B Patil, Karnataka Minister

Incompetence annoys me. Overconfidence terrifies me.
Malcolm Gladwell

TO BE PRECISE

Road collapse in MP leaves 30-foot-deep crater

IN PERSPECTIVE

Buried forest, missing law

Large-scale environmental destruction must be criminalised. India cannot afford to defer a law for ecocide

MRINALINI NAIK

In April, over a weekend, the Telangana government felled hundreds of trees in the eco-sensitive zone of Hyderabad's Kancha Gachibowli forest. Within days, 100 acres (of a total 400) of the urban forest were destroyed, disrupting an entire ecosystem and wildlife, sparking public anger across the country. The Supreme Court of India came down heavily on the government for the move.

The forest was allegedly cleared for the development of IT parks. The destruction appears to have occurred without any environmental clearance under the Environment Protection Act, 1986, or approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the Amendment Act of 2023, or any public consultation. Officials claimed the land was "government property" and therefore not a "notified forest." This justification, however, contradicts the settled law.

In the landmark case of *T N Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India* (1996), the Supreme Court held that the term "forest" must be interpreted widely, beyond its legal definition. Any land with forest-like characteristics, irrespective of ownership or official designation, is to be treated as forest land for legal protection. The Court directed that no such land could be cleared or diverted without prior approval from the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Gachibowli forest meets the ecological criteria of a forest, and satellite imagery and local accounts suggest it does; its clearance without mandatory approvals constitutes a clear legal violation.

Not only were there violations under the present laws in the country, but what happened here was a grave environmental crime, an "ecocide". The Stop Ecocide Foundation defines ecocide as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts."

In July, while hearing the *suo motu* case *In Re: Kancha Gachibowli Forest, State of Telangana*, the Chief Justice of India, B R Gavai, stated that he advocates sustainable development, but that doesn't mean bulldozers are employed to clear a jungle overnight. In the latest hearing on the case last month, the Telangana government informed the Court about plans for a better, sustainable proposal. The Court, in its order, stated that developmental activities should be accompanied by mitigating and compensatory measures in the interest of the environment and wildlife.

Though multiple Supreme Court decisions have underlined environmental protection, India's forest and biodiversity laws, while comprehensive, are largely procedural and clearance-based. Violations are often treated as administrative defaults rather than serious environmental harm.

Despite constitutional commitments under Article 48A (State's duty to protect the environment, forest and wildlife) and Article 51A(g) (citizens' duty to protect nature), India has no specific legal concept of ecocide, where destruction of ecosystems is considered a serious offence. Under the current law, unauthorised deforestation attracts just fines or minor penalties. There is no standalone offence for irreversible ecological damage, even if it leads to habitat loss, pollution, or climate risk. Criminal prosecution is rare and limited to specific wildlife or pollution violations. Non-notified forests like the one in Gachibowli are especially vulnerable, as they often fall through regulatory cracks.

Deterrence before offence

An ecocide law would bridge this gap by recognising mass environmental destruction as a criminal offence, irrespective of the procedural lapses. It would establish personal criminal liability for corporate executives, contractors, and public officials involved, a duty of care towards the environment, restorative obligations including ecological rehabilitation, and compensation and preventive deterrence, rather than post-facto damage control.

Globally, countries like France and Belgium have begun to define ecocide in domestic law. International legal experts have proposed its inclusion as a core crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Recently, Scotland proposed an Ecocide Bill aiming to criminalise severe and irreversible environmental harm. It recommends penalties of up to 20 years' imprisonment for individuals and unlimited fines for organisations. The bill targets corporate executives and officials while protecting uninformed employees and encouraging organisational precautions.

The Gachibowli forest clearance is not an isolated event; it echoes across the country, from Hasdeo to Aarey, where forests are routinely sacrificed for infrastructure and real estate.

India has strong environmental jurisprudence. The Supreme Court has time and again tried to prevent nature's destruction by placing stringent restrictions and fines on violators. However, India lacks the statutory architecture to treat environmental destruction as a crime against nature and society. Recognising ecocide in Indian law would not merely punish wrongdoers but would reflect the commitment to ecological justice.

(The writer is an advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India)

Landless, nameless, essential: The story of India's women farmers

KAVITHA KURUGANTI

October 15 is observed by the United Nations as International Rural Women's Day and in India as Women Farmers' Day, given the near-synonymity between rural women and women farmers in the country. The day celebrates their knowledge, skills and resilience and acknowledges their immense contribution to food security and the agricultural sector. It is also a reminder that most of these women still lack recognition and identity as farmers in their own right.

Although the National Policy For Farmers (2007) provided a clear and expansive definition of a "farmer", delinking it from land ownership and thereby including various categories of women farmers, this definition has not been implemented on the ground. Markets and government institutions continue to address themselves mainly to men, as though they alone were farmers.

A large majority of rural women counted as workers in India are engaged in agriculture -- and their numbers are rising. Across regions and crops, women contribute more labour-days than men, sustaining production systems with unrecognised, undervalued and often unpaid labour. Most self-employed women in agriculture work on family-owned land without remuneration, even though new academic evidence shows that such unpaid female labour is crucial to agricultural productivity. At the national level, female land ownership remains extremely low, with wide state-wise variation: according to National Family Health Survey -5 (NFHS-5), only 8.3% of women own land in their name, while the Agriculture Census (2015-2016) records just 13.9% (20.25 million) of operational holdings as being in women's names.

Recent data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2024 shows that 76.9% of rural female workers are in agriculture -- up from 76.2% in 2023 and 75.9% in 2022. By contrast, the share of rural men in agriculture has fallen from 51% in 2022 to 49.4% in 2024. The Economic Survey 2024-2025, citing PLFS data, notes that the share of women workers in agriculture rose from 57% in 2017-2018 to 64.4% in 2023-2024, while men's participation declined from 40.2% to 36.3%. This unmistakably points to the feminisation of Indian agriculture. In some states, such as Chhattisgarh and Himachal Pradesh, women already form the majority of full-time agricultural workers.

Despite this reality, most women farmers still lack a formal identity as farmers, receive unequal pay, and remain disempowered in household, community, and institutional decision-making related to agriculture.

A study by Hema Swaminathan *et al.*, covering Karnataka among other locations, found that men controlled both household and agricultural decisions. Women's participation in decision-making was closely linked to asset ownership -- including land -- where they remain significantly disadvantaged. The Karnataka study also concluded that women's economic resources are associated with their decision-making roles.

Despite stronger discourse and some policy articulation on paper, the situation on the ground remains largely unchanged. Even in Adivasi communities, where women traditionally enjoyed higher social status and autonomy, formalising Individual Forest Rights (IFR) titles solely in men's names --in violation of the Forest Rights Act 2006 -- has deepened inequalities. Community institutions, which are statutorily mandated to have equal spaces created for women to take part in decision-making, are not being created and used. Meanwhile, gender blind spots in agricultural interventions have caused even progressive initiatives like farmer producer organisations (FPOs) to widen gender gaps. Women face significant barriers to entry, participation, and leadership in FPOs and cooperatives -- issues that remain off the policy radar.

Nor does this account for the many women farmers who are not cultivators -- livestock rearers, pastoralists, forest foragers, and fisherwomen. Together, they face deep structural violence in their daily lives, even as they form the backbone of India's agriculture. This reality demands an explicit acknowledgement and redress.

Governments must begin by maintaining gender-disaggregated data systems for all aspects of agriculture -- credit, insurance, marketing, land and livestock ownership, and membership in various institutions. Without this basic foundation, progress cannot be meaningfully tracked.

Karnataka's farmer registry, FRUITS, should be replicated nationwide. In fact, the AgriStack's Farmers' Registry, being shaped by the Government of India based mainly on land records, risks excluding millions of landless cultivators -- including a vast number of women -- unless it explicitly includes non-land-owning farmers.

While patriarchy has placed most assets in men's hands, the least that the Government of India can do is redirect its DBT/DIT schemes to women farmers in agri-households. Progressive policies are also needed to redistribute asset ownership between men and women, with active incentives for gender equity.

While this may take a longer time, it is also important to ensure that food systems transformation towards greater sustainability and justice is led by women farmers. It is not enough that low-paid Krishi Sakhis are made to shoulder the responsibility of extension departments, but that in the highest levels of decision-making, women farmers are given space to articulate their vision for the future of agriculture in India. As the world walks into the year 2026, which has been declared as the International Year of the Woman Farmer by the United Nations, it is hoped that women farmers will get justice on many fronts.

(The writer is with the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture)

Hamas released hostages and agreed to abide by a ceasefire, but persuading it to lay down its arms is another matter

DAVID M HALBFINGER AND ADAM RASGON

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

For Israel, Hamas and Trump's plan, now comes the hard part

Getting Israel's hostages released from Gaza and stopping the war may have taken two years and the direct efforts of the American president and the leaders of several Arab and Muslim nations. But that was almost certainly the easy part.

Getting Hamas to give up its weapons, and demilitarising the Gaza Strip — key preconditions for Israel to pull out of Gaza fully, as both President donald Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reiterated on Monday — could prove a lot harder.

Then there are the other issues in Trump's 20-point plan, which outlined a comprehensive solution for Gaza. In full, it also called for the establishment of an international force to help maintain security in the territory, an ambitious effort to rebuild Gaza's economy and infrastructure, and the creation of a temporary Palestinian governing committee, whose work would be overseen by an international board.

During the talks leading up to the ceasefire in Gaza, provisions for who would run the enclave on "the day after" the war was over were among the most complicated and vexing — so much so that they were eventually severed from the cease-fire talks and put off until a second phase of negotiations.

That phase had at least an air of auspiciousness on Monday evening in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, where Trump and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt gathered dozens of leaders to try to build on the momentum created by the truce and the exchange of 20 living Israeli hostages and the bodies of others for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.

"Phase 2 has started," Trump said. He predicted "tremendous progress."

"It's peace in the Middle East," he said. "Everyone said it's not possible to do. And it's going to happen."

Yet, Monday's kickoff in Sharm el-Sheikh aside, it is unclear even when Phase 2 talks will formally begin and where they will be held.

And both Israeli and Palestinian analysts said it was easier to imagine things going sideways than to imagine Trump's plan being fully realised.

"The main issue still hasn't been solved: Hamas's weapons," said Akram Atallah, a London-based Palestinian columnist originally from Jabaliya, in the northern Gaza Strip. "The Israelis are demanding Hamas disarm, which is not a simple administrative measure. Hamas was founded on the basis of bearing arms."

Hamas, he said, is effectively being asked to "dismantle its ideology."

With the halt to a war that has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and lain waste to much of Gaza, Atallah said that the current atmosphere was more optimistic but that it was uncertain how long that would last.

"It feels good right now," he said, "but I can see dark clouds in the distance and I don't know what they're carrying."

Israeli analysts and officials said the likeliest outcome was that Phase 2 of the talks would become bogged down. They envisioned the *status quo* lingering for so long that it takes root, with Hamas still armed, and the Israeli military refusing to withdraw fully from Gaza. In that circumstance, they also foresaw the Israeli military treating the group much as it now treats Hezbollah in Lebanon: occasionally striking Hamas militants or their weapon depots from afar.

Despite Trump's repeated, unqualified declarations that the war is over, backsliding on either side could threaten a renewal of fighting, analysts said.

"If there's a terrorist attack against one of our posts right now, God forbid, and we have casualties, after a minute, it's over," said Zohar Palti, a former senior Mossad and Ministry of Defence official.

Nimrod Novik, a former Israeli envoy and distinguished fellow at the Israel Policy Forum, warned of the influence of domestic politics. "If it turns out in four or five weeks that the general mood in the country is that this war was an awful round, but only another round, and Hamas is back, I can see Netanyahu trying to correct that," Novik said, alluding to the possibility of a resumption of hostilities. "All you need is a Hamas provocation and a disproportionate Israeli reaction, and you can have a spiral."

It was up to Qatar, Turkey, and Egypt — the three Muslim-majority countries that played major roles in mediating the Hamas-Israel ceasefire — "to pressure Hamas not to provoke," Novik said.

To members of Netanyahu's governing coalition, the onus is squarely on Hamas. Several officials described the ceasefire agreement so far as amounting to a simple trade in which Israel gave away roughly half of Gaza in exchange for its hostages. To get Israel to leave the rest of Gaza's territory, they said, it will need to give up its arms and let another entity step in to govern the enclave.

"Things are very straightforward," said Boaz Bismuth, a Netanyahu ally who heads the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee. "If you don't want Israel to be there, you know exactly what you have to do. It's easy."

But saying so doesn't make it so.

Hamas, experts close to the militant group said, is willing to make certain moves to enable the reconstruction of Gaza, but it still wants to retain some influence over the territory's future.

"Hamas is willing to offer some concessions to enable the rehabilitation of Gaza, but it will not evaporate," said Ibrahim al-Madhoun, a Palestinian analyst close to Hamas. "Its focus is on quiet. It wants to be part of the solution, and it won't be an obstacle to stability."

Palti, the former Israeli intelligence and defence official, expressed scepticism over the Trump plan's prescription that Hamas be barred from either a military or civilian role in governing Gaza.

"Who's going to do it?" he said. "If somebody thinks that with a magic stick you're achieving this revolution in hours or days, forget about it. It's not going to happen. Not because I'm pessimistic; because I'm realistic."

The deployment of an international stabilisation force, as the plan suggests, could lead the Israeli military to withdraw further. But it is still largely unknown which countries would contribute to the force, how it would be funded and trained, and when it would deploy.

And the Palestinian Authority, which previously governed Gaza and still has employees on the ground, appears to be largely excluded from Trump's initiative, barring the completion of unspecified reforms.

All of which is not to say that Phase 2 is doomed from the outset.

Bismuth, the lawmaker from Netanyahu's party, took great encouragement from the participation of Arab countries in the peace talks, and even more from Monday's release of 20 Israelis held in Gaza since the October 7, 2023, attacks.

"I do believe that those who have to do the specific moves expected from them will do them," he said. "When you have such results like today, you can believe in the optimistic scenario."

The Israeli military on Tuesday publicly identified two of the four bodies of former captives in Gaza whose remains were returned to Israel. The announcement added a sorrowful note to the joyful celebrations across the country on Monday after the release of the last 20 living captives held in Gaza.

The cease-fire agreement called on Hamas to release on Monday the bodies of the 28 hostages who are believed to have died. The deal acknowledged that recovering many of the bodies could be difficult, especially because of the widespread devastation in Gaza. The territory was highly urbanized before the war, but two years of Israeli strikes have turned large parts of it into a flattened landscape of cement rubble.

The New york Times

Plugged in, tuned out

ISHAYU GUPTA AND NEELATPHAL CHANDA

Step out into any Indian city today, and you will notice a common accessory. Not sneakers or backpacks, but the little white—or sometimes neon-coloured—earbuds tucked into almost every ear. From early morning joggers vibing to Bollywood beats to metro commuters catching up on podcasts to delivery partners weaving through traffic with playlists blasting, being plugged in has become the new urban uniform. Music makes the Monday blues bearable, podcasts turn traffic jams into classrooms, and even a voice note from a friend can brighten the dullest commute. But here's the twist: that tiny device that makes the city feel like your personal music video could also be turning the streets into something far riskier.

India already records some of the world's highest road accidents, with over 1.5 lakh fatalities reported every year. Overspeeding, drunk driving, and reckless overtaking dominate the headlines, yet a quieter threat has been sneaking into the mix -- audio-distracted walking, cycling, and driving. Think about it: when you're plugged into your favourite track, the world fades out. A song on shuffle can make you tune out the very sounds designed to keep you safe.

Take Bengaluru's MG Road or Delhi's Connaught Place. Teenagers cross streets without looking up from their phones, riders with helmets sneak in one earbud, and pedestrians bop along to beats while cars swerve past. It has almost become part of the urban landscape—an unspoken agreement that music and movement go hand in hand, even in traffic. Somewhere along the way, the line blurred between private enjoyment and public responsibility. Unlike smoking in public or drunk driving, wearing earbuds carries no stigma. In fact, it is seen as cool—almost aspirational. Wireless earbuds are productivity tools, style statements, and even status symbols. They let you multitask, blur work and leisure, and stay plugged into your world. Therefore, while everyone agrees driving drunk is reckless, walking around with earphones seems harmless. Harmless it is not.

Consider a college student rushing to class, headphones in, lost in a playlist. A split second of inattention while crossing a busy intersection could turn tragic. Or a biker enjoying a podcast, oblivious to an ambulance stuck behind. These are not rare, far-fetched examples—they are everyday risks that most of us have witnessed, if not experienced. The danger is silent but constant, hidden under layers of normalisation.

Some states have rules in place. The Motor Vehicles Act allows traffic police to fine drivers for using mobile phones. But earbuds? That is a loophole. Motorcyclists often ride with one ear free—technically legal, but still distracted. Pedestrians, who account for nearly 17% of road accident deaths in India, face no restrictions at all. Enforcement is patchy, and even where rules exist, nobody takes them seriously. Unlike helmets or seatbelts, "no earbuds" is not yet part of our collective road-safety culture.

That culture shift is what we need. Remember how "Don't Drink and Drive" became second nature? Or how seatbelts went from optional to non-negotiable? Audio distraction deserves the same level of awareness. Imagine a trend where influencers say, "One less earbud, one more life saved." With youth leading the charge, awareness could spread faster than any rulebook.

While many earbuds have "ambient mode", which lets in external sounds while you listen, these features are marketed as lifestyle perks, not safety essentials. If tech companies teamed up with road safety groups and branded them as life-saving tools, it could make all the difference.

At its heart, this issue is about how we share space. Roads are not just tarmac—they are ecosystems. Every unheard honk or siren is not just background noise; it is communication, part of the rhythm that keeps the city alive. Ignoring it in favour of a playlist is like muting the soundtrack of survival. The irony is that the very thing earbuds promise—connection—can disconnect us from the immediate reality: our surroundings.

No one is saying to ditch earbuds altogether. They are fun, functional, and addictive. They help us escape stress, power through workouts, and focus on tasks. However, the smarter move knows when to press pause. The rhythm of the city—the honks, the chatter, the chaos—might not make for the best playlist, but it is the sound you need most. Because staying alive can be as simple as listening.

So next time you step out, maybe let one ear breathe. Save the beats for the gym or the café. Out on the streets, the world is already playing a track—and it is one you do not want to miss. Safety is not about muting life's soundtrack. It is about tuning in to the one that matters most.

(Ishayu is with the University of Leeds, UK and Neelatphal is an assistant professor and co-project director (ICSSR-JJM), Department of Media Studies, at Christ Deemed to be University, Bengaluru)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

End to Emergency will depend on situation: PM

Srinagar, October 14
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi said today that the lifting of the four-month-old emergency in the country would "depend on the situation." She was talking to correspondents at the end of her five-day visit to Kashmir. She said emergency was "not a game. It depended on the situation. When reasons which led to its proclamation disappear, Emergency would also go." On "relaxation in the situation" and the need to lift emergency, she said, "certain people wanted to do certain things".

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

Eleven of a family massacred in Bihar

Siwan, Oct 14
Eleven members of a family including a 12-year-old girl of the intermediary Yadav caste were gunned down allegedly by the gang of Siwan RJD MP Md Shahabuddin at Mojahitpur village of Siwan district during the wee hours today. The deceased included four brothers, their children and grand children. According to the family, about 20 to 30 men armed with sophisticated weapons raided the village and fired indiscriminately on those sleeping outside their houses.

OASIS | S RADHA PRATHI

The power of storytelling

There was a time when children would be put to bed with a session of storytelling. This routine not only ensured that the children would fall asleep, but also help them comprehend and envision new aspects of life. Psychologists and sociologists confirm that this age-old method introduced in the formative years of a child's life reflected on their empathetic personalities later in life. Long before these studies were carried out, our history bears testimony to the power of story telling.

There once lived a king called Dhavala Raja in Vanga Desham. He had four sons. They were not inclined to learning. The king became desperate as his sons entered their teens. He announced that he would give a handsome reward to the teacher who could educate his sons. Many teachers, scholars, and amateurs failed in the mission. Time flit past. One day, a Brahmin called Vishnu Sharman said he was ready to take up the challenge. He took the princes out of their comfort zone to the outskirts of the kingdom. He was aware that conventional learning would not work for the princes. Therefore, he decided to use story telling as a tool to edify them. The characters in his stories comprised of humans, birds, animals, insects, plants and trees. Each story had a multidimensional message that was conveyed humorously and subtly.

The princes were encouraged to reflect on these stories and not only would a person learn life lessons, but also develop the panache for thinking out of the box and acquire soft skills. These stories were riddled with hypothetical problems and solutions that were innovative. The tales were aimed at serving as case studies that could be referred to when faced with similar problems in real life. The princes who could not learn in traditional methods benefitted greatly from this novel method. Entertainment and holistic education ensconced their very being without their own knowledge. Needless to say, they turned out to be wise young men, thoroughly qualified to handle the administrative duties of their royal legacy.

These stories collectively came to be known as *Hitopadesha* or Advice for Well Being. These tales were narrated under four sections by Vishnu Sharman. *Mitralaabha* -Acquiring Friends, *Mitra Bheda*- Separation of Friends, *Vigraha*- War and *Sandhi*-Peace. To this day, these stories with a universal ring serve as go-to anecdotes to help us understand and resolve the predicaments posed by life.

India to resume postal services to US

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Tuesday said that India Post will resume international postal services of all categories to the US from October 15.

As per the US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) guidelines, customs duty on postal shipments from India to the US is applicable at a flat rate of 50% of the declared consignment value under the new tariff rule, the Department of Posts said.

"The Department of Posts is pleased to announce the resumption of all categories of international postal services to the United States with effect from October 15," an official statement said.

India Posts said the postal services to the US were earlier suspended through an office memorandum dated August 22, following Executive Order 14324, issued by the US administration.

Unlike courier or commercial consignments, no additional base or product-specific duties are levied on postal items, it added.

"This favourable duty structure substantially lowers the overall cost burden for exporters, making the postal channel a more affordable and competitive logistics option for MSMEs, artisans, small traders and e-commerce exporters," the statement said.

The DoP said that it will not levy any additional charges on customers for facilitating DDP (delivered duty paid) and qualified party services.

"This measure has been introduced to maintain affordability, support MSMEs, and boost India's exports through the postal channel," the statement said.

Survivor's friend held in Durgapur rape case; total arrests at six

KOLKATA, PTI: The West Bengal Police arrested the friend of the medical student rape survivor on Tuesday evening, taking the total number of arrests in the case to six, and claimed that the sexual assault was committed by one of the suspects, while the role of others in the crime are still under probe.

Earlier in the day, investigators reconstructed the crime scene after all six accused were taken to the place of occurrence (PO) of the crime to complete the process, police said.

The college-mate of the survivor, a resident of Malda district, was arrested after he was questioned repeatedly by the police, with the investigators finding "glaring inconsistencies" in his replies, a senior officer said.

The second-year student from Odisha was allegedly raped outside the campus of the private medical college in Durgapur on October 10 evening.

Sunil Choudhury, CP, Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate, said, "The role of the victim's friend has remained under our scanner and he is not outside the domain of suspicion. We are thoroughly questioning him."

"We have already recovered the survivor's mobile, which was snatched from her, from the possession of one the accused. The police have seized apparels worn by all six accused for further investigation. We visited the PO with the accused and reconstructed the crime scene," Choudhury added.

'What about federal structure?' SC asks ED in TN liquor case

Extends stay on agency's investigation against TASMAC

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday raised questions over the Enforcement Directorate's investigation against the Tamil Nadu State Marketing Corporation Limited, while extending its interim order restraining the central agency from taking coercive action, including search, seizure or investigation, in the liquor retail scam.

Flagging issue of federal structure, a bench of Chief Justice of India B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran put the brakes on the ED's action till review petition against the judgment upholding the validity of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act was decided.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, representing TASMAC, contended that the state vigilance had filed 47 FIRs against liquor outlet operators over allegations of corruption from 2014-21, but ED entered the scene in 2025 and raided the headquarters and took the phones and devices of the officers.

He asked who is ED to investigate corruption?

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, representing the ED, said the central agency is not investigating corruption, and it is only probing money laundering, and TASMAC is making wild allegations.

SUPREME COURT

"Would it not amount to encroachment upon the right of the state to investigate? In every case, when you find that the state is not investigating, will you take it upon yourself? What happens to Section 66(2)?

Referring to ED's counter affidavit, Sibal questioned how the alleged bribery by TASMAC regional managers for transfers is relevant to the ED's involvement.

Officers of district managers and senior managers are indulging in high-level corruption; what does that have to do with ED, Sibal further asked.

He said they have not gone to any regional manager or district authority, and they have not gone to the breweries, and they only raided the corporate office.

Raju said the state vigilance had registered the FIR, and hence, the existence of the predicate offence was undenied. The bench was informed that the ED investigation found evidence regarding money laundering and the state was protecting the officers.

The bench asked Raju, "What happens to the federal structure? Law and order have to be worked within its own domain....".

Raju said the central agency has found incriminating offences.

The bench asked if the ED investigation would not infringe upon the right of the state to investigate the matter.

"Would it not amount to encroachment upon the right of the state to investigate?

The bench further queried, "In every case, when you find that the state is not investigating the matter, you will go and do it yourself?

Raju said federalism arguments were being made to conceal the corruption. He claimed that there was large-scale corruption.

The bench was informed that the state had closed 37 FIRs in a short time, and they are trying to cut off the ED by closing the FIRs one by one.

"Last six years we have had the opportunity to deal with many cases of ED...I don't want to say more; last time I said something, it was reported everywhere," the CJI said.

On May 22, a bench led by CJI observed that the ED is violating the federal structure of the country and the central agency is crossing all limits, while putting on hold the investigation against the TASMAC.

Maoists suffer setback as top leader surrenders with 60 others

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Mallojula Venugopal Rao, alias Sonu, a politburo member of the CPI (Maoist) and 60 other cadres have surrendered before police in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district, officials said.

Bhupathi was also the spokesperson of the CPI (Maoist) and carried a reward of over Rs 6 crore.

The 69-year-old was considered one of the most influential strategists in the Maoist organisation and had long supervised platoon operations along the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, said sources.

The Gadchiroli police, however, refused to confirm or deny the development.

"We are not in a position to comment on anything at this stage," a top Gadchiroli police official told *DH* when contacted over the phone.

This is perhaps one of the biggest-ever surrenders involving Naxalites.

Reacting to the development, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said, "I am hopeful that the goal of eliminating Naxalism from the country by March 31, 2026, will be achieved, and rapid development will take place across Chhattisgarh, especially in the Bastar region. It is the assertion by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister that Naxalism will end by March next year."

A formal surrender ceremony is expected on Wednesday at the Gadchiroli police headquarters. Bhupathi is believed to be responsible for several major attacks across Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.

In September, Bhupathi had issued a press release, signalling his intention to lay down arms, which gained support from several cadre.

The surrender happened along the Hodri village in Bhamragad tehsil of Gadchiroli.

CRACKDOWN

- **November 2011:** Bhupathi's brother Mallojula Koteswara was killed by security forces in West Bengal's West Midnapore district.
- **January 2025:** Bhupathi's wife Vimala Chandra Sidam surrendered before Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis.
- **January 2025:** Six Naxals surrender in Karnataka
- **September 2025:** Kishenji's wife Pothula Padmavathi surrendered in Telangana.

20 passengers burnt alive, 16 critical as bus catches fire in Jaisalmer

The fire reportedly broke out due to a short circuit

JAISALMER, PTI

Twenty passengers were burnt alive and 16 were critically injured when a private bus travelling from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur caught fire on Tuesday, police said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday expressed grief over the loss of lives and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.

According to police, the bus, carrying 57 passengers, left Jaisalmer around 3 pm. On the Jaisalmer-Jodhpur highway, smoke began emerging from the rear portion. The driver stopped the bus along the roadside, but within moments, the flames engulfed the vehicle.

The Jodhpur-bound bus that caught fire near Thaiyat village in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Tuesday. PTI

Locals and passers-by rushed to the spot and assisted in the rescue efforts. Army personnel also assisted in the operation.

Fire tenders and police were informed, and the injured passengers were taken to Jawahar Hospital in Jaisalmer for treatment.

Police said 16 critically injured passengers have been referred to a hospital in Jodhpur.

Prima facie, it appears that the fire broke out due to a short circuit, police said.

BJP MLA from Pokran Pratap Puri said, "19 passengers died in the bus and one succumbed to burn injuries on the way to Jodhpur."

He said that the bus caught fire ten minutes after leaving Jaisalmer.

PM announces ex gratia

In a post on X, the prime minister said, "Distressed by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured."

"An ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," he said.

Following the accident, the district administration has issued an appeal for information to the kin of the victims to ascertain their identity. The bodies will be handed over to family members after DNA matching, officials said.

Upon receiving information regarding the incident, Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma reached Jaisalmer and was briefed by the officers.

The Jaisalmer district administration said it promptly began relief and rescue operations after receiving information about the incident.

Vaishnaw pitches for Andaman as next big hub for global data

NEW DELHI, DHNS: IT and Electronics Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday proposed making Andaman the next big hub for global internet data transfer due to its geographic location.

"Why can't we make Andaman the next big hub for global Internet data transfer? Andaman can actually help Google and every other Internet-based organisation to reach Southeast Asia, to Australia, to a large part of the world, which is today looking at totally new capacity," the minister said while speaking at the Bharat AI Shakti event.

Vaishnaw asked companies to make a link from Vizag to Sittwe in Myanmar to take the cable up to the northeastern states. "If we can really go via Myanmar to Mizoram... so that we can take the cable up to the northeastern states because northeastern states require much better connectivity."

'Wangchuk indulged in activities prejudicial to national security'

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Leh District Magistrate on Tuesday told the Supreme Court that activist Sonam Wangchuk indulged in activities prejudicial to national security, resulting in his detention under the National Security Act.

Sonam Wangchuk

"The detention order came to be passed after duly considering the material as mandated under law and after arriving at a subjective satisfaction on the circumstances that prevailed within the local limits of the jurisdiction where Wangchuk had been indulging in activities prejudicial to the security of the state, maintenance of public order essential to the community as mentioned in the grounds of detention," an affidavit filed by Leh DM said.

The officer said the detention order has been forwarded to the advisory board as required under section 10 of the National Security Act, 1980.

The affidavit also stated, "He is not in illegal detention. His wife was immediately informed about the arrest and timely informed about his transfer to Jodhpur jail." The affidavit also contended Wangchuk has not made any representation as required under Section 10 of the Act.

His wife has, however, sent a letter addressed to the President and neither to the Advisory Board nor to any of the statutory authorities, it pointed out.

Meanwhile, Wangchuk's wife Gitanjali Angmo has also filed an affidavit alleging that she has been put under surveillance.

The court decided to hear the case on Wednesday.

Indian-backed Mongol refinery to start operation by 2028

NEW DELHI, DHNS

PM Narendra Modi with Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa. PTI

Mongolia's first oil refinery, being supported by a Line of Credit extended by India, may start operations by 2028, four years behind schedule, and lessen the nation's dependence on imports from Russia and China.

"The oil refinery project, supported by India's $1.7 billion Line of Credit, will strengthen the energy security of Mongolia," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said after a meeting with Mongolian President Khurelsukh Ukhnaa in New Delhi on Tuesday.

The construction of the refinery started in 2018. Though it was expected to be completed by 2024, the construction was delayed.

"Almost all the civil work is over. The refinery equipment is being manufactured in India and will be shipped to Mongolia. It seems to be on track, and we expect that by 2028, the refinery should be in operation," P Kumaran, Secretary (East) at the Ministry of External Affairs, said.

"The Mongolians want to use their own crude, which is mostly exported now, to be fed into this refinery so that they can be as energy independent as possible. That is something we want to support, and we hope to see this through by 2028," added Kumaran.

Modi noted that defence and security cooperation between India and Mongolia was also steadily strengthening.

"We have launched several new initiatives, from training programmes to the appointment of a Defence Attaché at the Embassy. India will also launch a new capacity-building program for Mongolia's border security forces," he added.

Pakistan lost over 100 soldiers in Operation Sindoor: DGMO

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Pakistan may have lost over 100 soldiers during the India-Pakistan hostilities that followed Operation Sindoor, a top Indian Army officer said on Tuesday, inferring from the gallantry award list released by Islamabad on its Independence Day, August 14.

"There was cross-border firing by Pakistan immediately after the terror targets were engaged. In my (earlier) media interaction, I had said that 35-40 is our (enemy casualty) estimate. However, Pakistan may have unwittingly revealed more through its August 14 awards list. The number of posthumous awards suggests that their casualties along the LoC were also in excess of 100," said Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, Director General of Military Operations (DGMO).

Lt Gen Ghai, who was the DGMO during Operation Sindoor in May, was addressing a conclave of army chiefs from 34 nations that contribute troops for the UN peacekeeping forces.

On why Pakistan sponsored the dastardly terror strike in Pahalgam killing innocent civilians, he said the Pakistan army and its chief were under duress at the time. "There was a need for him to revive not only his image, but also of the Pak army. The best way and the only way that is known to them was to do what they did, as cowardly as it may have been."

PAHALGAM REPLY

- Toll inferred from Pak's August 14 gallantry awards list
- JeM, LeT headquarters hit after Pahalgam attack.
- Precision strikes damaged Pak air bases

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MANOJ KUMAR KATIYAR

"The action we will take this time will be deadlier than in the past. It will be more powerful. Yes, you are very right – it (Operation Sindoor 2.0) has to be deadlier. There is no doubt about it.

The senior officer asserted that the Indian action was inevitable and all three services were together in planning and coordinating their responses towards the adversary.

"The navy had sailed into the Arabian Sea, and when the DGMO spoke, they were very well-poised. Had the enemy decided to take it any further, it could have been catastrophic for them and not only from the sea but from other dimensions," Lt Gen Ghai said.

Commenting on the air strike, he said, "Drones came in large numbers even after the two DGMOs had spoken. This led us to swing the Indian Air Force into action. In the precision strikes carried out on the night of May 9-10, we hit 11 of their air bases... Eight air bases, three hangars and four radars were damaged. Pakistani air assets were destroyed on the ground."

"Eighty-eight hours is what it took for the enemy to come and ask for a cessation of hostilities. Our military actions were targeted, controlled, non-escalatory," the DGMO added.

Top court allows UPSC to release answer key post prelims

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday approved the UPSC's policy shift to publish provisional answer keys immediately after the Civil Services preliminary examination, in a big relief to lakhs of candidates.

Acting on a bunch of petitions challenging the Union Public Service Commission's 'opaque' policy on releasing answer keys, a bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Atul S Chandurkar, paved the way for enhanced transparency in future exams while granting petitioners liberty to seek redressal for past grievances through high courts.

The court recorded its appreciation for amicus curiae senior advocate Jaideep Gupta and Advocate-on-Record Pranjal Kishore for their comprehensive note recommending the immediate release of answer keys post prelims.

This recommendation was instrumental in prompting the UPSC to concede to the demand in its counter affidavit filed in the lead case of Himanshu Kumar & Ors Vs Union of India.

The commission adopted a new framework wherein provisional keys for objections would be released right after the prelims.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, along with advocates Rajiv Kumar Dubey, Rajesh G Inamdar, and Shashwat Anand, representing groups of petitioners from the CSE 2024 and CSE 2025 preliminary cycles, urged the court to address their unresolved grievances, including retrospective remedies like re-evaluation or objection windows for candidates who appeared under the old policy.

The court said the petitioners may approach the jurisdictional high courts for any remaining redressal.

SLEEPLESS MINDS

Fear of failure drives teen distress in K'taka, Telangana: Study

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Adolescent students in Karnataka and Telangana are grappling with serious psychological challenges, driven largely by a fear of disappointing parents and teachers.

A recent survey by the Australia-based psychological wellness platform Give Me Five (GM5) found that many students in these two states face pronounced sleep difficulties—trouble falling asleep, waking unrested—and persistent problems with focus and concentration in class.

The survey, which covered 11 schools and included 2,464 students from Telangana and 2,536 from Karnataka, found that nearly 24% of students aged 10–18 show signs of psychological distress. Alarmingly, 6–10% fall into the high or critical range, indicating a need for immediate mental health support.

Sleep and focus challenges are largely rooted in academic pressure and fear of failure. Many are caught in a cycle of comparison and performance anxiety, which affects their rest and concentration. "In residential settings, being away from home adds another layer of emotional adjustment," said GM5 founder and CEO, Dr Lisa Fahey OAM.

The results are striking—over 60% of students reported sleep-related issues, and more than 70% struggled with focus during class. Around 40% worried about disappointing parents and teachers, while fewer than 75% felt connected to support networks, putting them at greater risk of emotional and academic difficulties.

"These results show that students are open to seeking help, though introverted students or those concerned about stigma often prefer digital platforms and mental health apps for support," said Dr Fahey. She added that adolescent distress often stems from unrealistic expectations from parents, peers, or self-imposed standards.

WHO warns of 'substandard' Indian cough syrups

NEW DELHI, PTI: The World Health Organisation (WHO) has issued an alert against three "substandard" oral cough syrups identified in India—Coldrif, Respifresh TR and ReLife—and urged national regulatory authorities worldwide to immediately notify it if these are detected in their country.

It has also advised healthcare professionals to report the detection of these substandard products and any incident of adverse effects or lack of expected effects to their national regulatory authorities.

The alert comes after at least 22 children, mostly under the age of five, have died due to suspected kidney failure after being administered Coldrif in Madhya Pradesh. Besides, at least three children have allegedly died in Rajasthan after consuming cough syrup.

The WHO has further called for increased surveillance and diligence within the supply chains of countries and regions likely to be affected by these substandard products.

According to the alert, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) of India reported to WHO the presence of Diethylene Glycol (DEG) in at least three oral liquid medicines on October 8. This followed information identified by WHO on September 30 of localised clusters of acute illness and child fatalities in India.

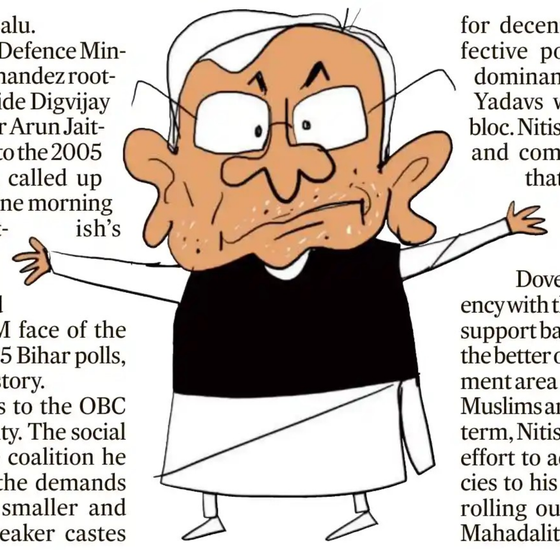
Bihar politics' never-out man: The importance of being Nitish

JD(U) leader remains a vote magnet no alliance can afford to ignore

SUMIT PANDE
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Despite repeated flip-flops, his own allies can't afford to completely ignore him during pre-poll parleys and seat distribution. His opponents tend to choose their words with extreme caution while criticising him. Love him or hate him, but you can't ignore Nitish Kumar in Bihar politics, even as he enters the autumn of his political career.

It was the BJP, in its quest for a non-Yadav OBC leader who could challenge Lalu Yadav's undisputed sway over the weaker sections after the Mandal surge in the early nineties, that first recognised the importance of being Nitish Kumar in Bihar. After a few false starts, the saffron outfit clearly understood that it would have to concede the leadership position to the JD(U) leader if it were to effectively oust Lalu.



While former Defence Minister George Fernandez rooted for his close aide Digvijay Singh, BJP leader Arun Jaitley, in the run-up to the 2005 Assembly polls, called up LK Advani one fine morning to press for Nitish's case. Given the go-ahead, the BJP announced Nitish as the CM face of the NDA for the 2005 Bihar polls, and the rest is history.

Nitish belongs to the OBC Kurmi community. The social dynamics of the coalition he built rested on the demands of numerically smaller and economically weaker castes for decentralisation and effective power-sharing with dominant caste groups like Yadavs within the Mandal bloc. Nitish mopped up castes and communities who felt that the benefits of Social Justice had not reached their doorsteps.

Dovetailing this constituency with the BJP's upper caste support base, Nitish finally got the better of Lalu, whose catchment area shrunk primarily to Muslims and Yadavs. In his first term, Nitish made a concerted effort to add new constituencies to his existing ensemble, rolling out special plans for Mahadalits, and was perhaps the first CM to carve a separate constituency of women voters through a combination of welfare programmes and reservations.

BJP's alliance with Nitish was based on an unwritten understanding with all its NDA partners: being the national party, the BJP would get a better bargain in seat-sharing for Lok Sabha polls in lieu of conceding the lead position to the regional ally in Assembly elections.

It is not surprising that both the I.N.D.I.A bloc and the NDA have had to accommodate Nitish on multiple occasions as the JD(U) oscillated from one end of the political spectrum to another in the last 10 years.

Now that the BJP has drawn a parity with Nitish in seat-sharing for the 2025 polls, its state leaders continue to remind Nitish voters that the NDA is fighting the elections under the JD(U) chief's leadership. To win Bihar, the BJP still needs 15% votes aligned with Nitish.

Earlier, the JD(U) could successfully leverage this unique position in Bihar politics to seek government leadership. Will it be able to do the same once the results are declared in November 2025? Irrespective of the outcome, even if it were his last hurrah, Nitish Kumar continues to occupy the centre stage.

BIHAR DIARY

JSP's Chanchal to fight against Tejashwi

PATNA, PTI: Curtains were virtually drawn on speculations that Prashant Kishor may contest against Tejashwi Yadav, as the Jan Suraaj Party (JSP) on Tuesday declared its candidate from Raghopur, where the RJD leader is aiming at a hat-trick.

JSP national president Uday Singh handed the party symbol to Chanchal Singh for Raghopur, an Assembly seat in Vaishali district. A photo of it was shared on social media.

The Jan Suraaj Party, which says it will contest all 243 seats of the state Assembly, is yet to announce its candidate from Phulparas.

Rs 60L liquor bound for Bihar seized in UP

LUCKNOW, PTI: The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) has arrested two alleged smugglers and seized a consignment of Indian-made foreign liquor worth around Rs 60 lakh being smuggled from Punjab to Bihar, a poll-bound dry state, officials said on Tuesday.

On Monday night, the STF arrested the two accused from the Purvanchal Expressway near Kandharapur in the Azamgarh district. The accused were identified as Bhima Ram and Yogesh Kumar, both residents of Rajasthan's Barmer district, the police said in a statement.

The smugglers were allegedly working for an interstate liquor trader named Ashu, based in Chandigarh, they said.

Bulk SMSes, voice notes on EC radar

NEW DELHI, PTI: As Bihar prepares for phase one of the Assembly polls on November 6, the Election Commission has warned that bulk SMSes and audio messages during the 48-hour 'silence period,' which starts before the conclusion of voting, are prohibited.

In a note issued on October 9 outlining campaigning restrictions, the poll authority said political advertisements on any election matter in TV, cable networks, radio, cinema halls, the use of bulk SMS/voice messages, and audiovisual displays in any polling area during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of the poll for any election in the polling area are prohibited.

Tickets and turnaround: RJD's seat deal drama

Lalu halts symbol distribution as Tejashwi intervenes

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

Amid high political drama within the Opposition over the last 24 hours, Tejashwi Yadav reportedly asked his father, Lalu Prasad, to withdraw party tickets which he had distributed on Monday night.

Lalu had allotted the tickets to a select few candidates after returning from New Delhi following his appearance in the IRCTC scam case.

However, as the news went viral, the Congress strongly objected to the unilateral declaration, as the I.N.D.I.A bloc had not reached a seat-sharing agreement.

Tejashwi persuaded the RJD chief to ask all those candidates whom he had allotted party symbols to return them.

In the wee hours of Tuesday, there was a beeline of RJD leaders and their supporters, to return the party symbols.

Sources said Lalu was trying to outsmart the Congress by allotting RJD symbols to his chosen candidates.

This also included the Kahalgaon constituency, which the Congress had won for four decades till the former Speaker Sadanand Singh was there.

ALLIANCE DISCORD
- Tejashwi asks father to withdraw tickets issued unilaterally
- RJD leaders queue up to return symbols
- Tejashwi wants to avoid a repeat of 2010 split

Lalu had purpotedly adopted a similar tactic to browbeat Congress during the 2024 Lok Sabha election too, when he allotted party symbols to RJD candidates, even though negotiations with Congress were ongoing.

Tejashwi, who had an incomplete and unfruitful talk with Congress leaders on Monday, agreed with the Congress leadership's claim over Kahalgaon. "It was he (Tejashwi) who persuaded his father to take back the symbols allotted as it may not augur well for the Mahagatbandhan," said a senior Opposition leader.

Tejashwi's concern is understandable as he does not want a repeat of the 2010 Assembly polls, where the RJD and the Congress contested separately and the NDA won.

Nitish gives away JD(U) tickets amid speculation of rift with BJP

PATNA, PTI

Amid intense speculations that the NDA seat-sharing deal has left him infuriated, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday gave away JD(U) tickets, by-passing the party's earlier practice of announcing the names of candidates at a press conference.

It was not immediately known how many JD(U) candidates were given tickets during the day, as the CM's residence kept bustling with activity, with aspirants turning up after receiving a call from party chief.

However, prominent among those who did are minister Bijendra Prasad Yadav, state JD(U) president Umesh Singh Kushwaha (Mahnar) and gangster-turned-politician Anant Kumar Singh (Mokama). Many of them also filed their nomination papers.

There was some drama, too, as Gopalpur MLA Gopal Mandal, who is said to have angered Kumar by remaining in the news for all the wrong reasons, turned up at the CM's residence without seeking an appointment. When security personnel tried to prevent him from entering the restricted area, he sat on a dharna, only to be bundled away into a police vehicle hours later.

JD(U) MLA Gopal Mandal, in green kurta, stages a dharna outside Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's residence ahead of the state Assembly elections, in Patna, on Tuesday. PTI

SEAT TENSIONS
- CM bypasses press meet tradition
- Gopal Mandal stages dharna after being denied entry
- Bhagalpur feud intensifies, MP Ajay Mandal threatens to quit
- Jitan Ram Manjhi voices displeasure over seat share

Mandal's constituency falls in the Bhagalpur district, where he is also known to have a running feud with local JD(U) MP Ajay Mandal, who sought to resign from the party around the same time, alleging that tickets were being given in his area without heeding to his advice.

In the meantime, rumours spread like wildfire that Kumar, who is known to dump allies and forge new coalitions at will, was angry that his party was not given the lion's share in the deal struck at Delhi on Sunday.

Leaders in his own party as well as alliance partners were on their feet, trying their best to assert that all was well, lest the situation might be taken advantage of by their adversaries.

"The Opposition is staring at a defeat. It is therefore spreading rumours of a rift in the NDA. Actually, it is the I.N.D.I.A bloc which is on the brink of collapse," alleged JD(U) working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, who was present in the national capital while the negotiations were on.

Reports in a section of the media also claimed that Jha, a former BJP man, had received a tongue-lashing from Kumar.

On cue, several NDA leaders from the state, including Union minister Chirag Paswan, a former bete noire of the JD(U) president who was away in Chandigarh, came out with social media posts asserting that the NDA was united under the leadership of the CM.

Union minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, the only NDA partner to have gone public with his displeasure over getting only six seats, also asserted on social media that his own displeasure over a less-than-desired share must not result in the alliance coming apart.

Manjhi also announced candidates for all the seats, four of them sitting MLAs, including his daughter-in-law Deepa Manjhi and her mother Jyoti Devi.

Folk singer Maithili Thakur joined BJP in Patna on Tuesday. Earlier, she had expressed willingness to contest the Bihar Assembly elections. PTI

I.N.D.I.A bloc may finalise seat-sharing deal today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Suspense over seat-sharing arrangements in I.N.D.I.A bloc continued with parties now hoping to announce the final deal on Wednesday morning, as the deadline for filing nominations for the first phase of the Bihar Assembly election is fast approaching.

BIHAR VOTES

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav returned to Patna without meeting Rahul Gandhi, who had gone to Chandigarh, while Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday evening chaired a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee to decide on the party's candidates.

Asked whether the situation is under control in the alliance, Kharge told reporters after the nearly two-hour-long CEC meeting, "Everything is fine". CEC member PL Punia said "more" when asked whether at least 40 seats were discussed.

Congress spokesperson Abhay Dubey said in Patna that the seat-sharing arrangement might be announced by Wednesday morning. He said they are discussing the seats "very carefully" while pointing out the trouble in the NDA.

When asked about the delay in the I.N.D.I.A bloc in finalising the seat-sharing pact, leaders said the real trouble is in the NDA, where MLAs are staging protests outside Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's residence and friction in the BJP.

CPI(ML)L is also learnt to have given party symbols to candidates in seats that were promised to them.

Among the constituencies on which RJD and Congress are adamant are Kahalgaon, Viashali and Narkatiaganj, and both parties are unwilling to concede.

Vijay's dilemma: Go solo or join NDA

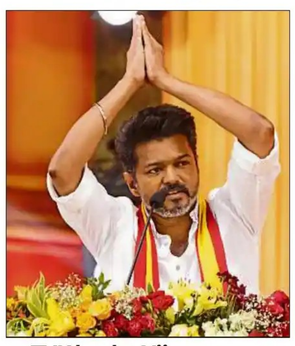
E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Over two weeks have passed since 41 people died in a stampede at a rally in Tamil Nadu's Karur, but the man at the centre of the row, Vijay, continues to wield a golden silence.

Even when the Supreme Court handed out a victory to him by transferring the Karur case to the CBI after junking a one-man commission appointed by the DMK government, Vijay merely said, 'truth will prevail'.

Vijay's measured reaction was in stark contrast to the reactions from BJP and AIADMK leaders, who said justice would be served to the families of the victims, as an 'impartial probe' by the Tamil Nadu Police would not have brought truth to light.

On the other side of the political spectrum, the DMK and its alliance partners went on overdrive to portray the transfer of the case to the CBI as TVK's surrender before the BJP.



TVK leader Vijay. PTI FILE

As Vijay continues to maintain a stoic silence, the intention of camps led by the AIADMK-BJP and DMK is clear – the former wants him to join the NDA to prevent a multi-way split of anti-government votes, while the latter wishes that the actor contests alone.

In fact, it is the statements of BJP and AIADMK leaders supporting the actor, in a departure from their previous stance of criticising him, that have lent credence to speculation about whether the NDA was inviting Vijay with open arms.

However, the biggest question is whether Vijay would be willing to dump his independent identity and ally with the NDA or AIADMK minus the BJP.

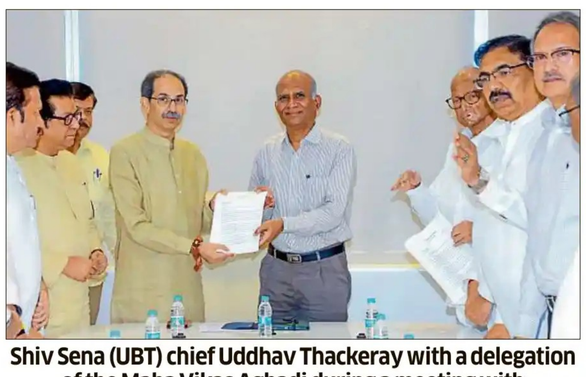
While the TVK and AIADMK coming together won't invite criticism of an ideological contradiction, the combine might even possess the ability to turn the wind in its favour and defeat the DMK. However, the going might get tough for the actor-politician post-2026 elections, especially dealing with the politically shrewd AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami, who has systematically eliminated challengers from within the party.

Vijay joining the NDA could spell doom for his political future, not merely because he has identified the BJP as his ideological enemy, but such a move will also alienate the significant minority population of about 17% in Tamil Nadu.

This leaves Vijay with the option of contesting alone. This will help Vijay assess his political standing, test his support base, and use the vote percentage his party gets in the elections as a bargaining chip to lead an alliance in the future, the analysts say.

Senior journalist Maalan Narayanan said Vijay's first priority would be to redeem his party and its esteem in the run-up to the 2026 elections. He warned that Vijay's supporters might move from one end to another if the TVK opts for an alliance.

"Neither Vijay nor the people around him will agree to an alliance, as their interests are linked to his political career. I believe Vijay will try to maintain his independent identity and refrain from publicly allying with the AIADMK," Narayanan told *DH*.



Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray with a delegation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi during a meeting with Maharashtra's CEO S Chockalingam. PTI

Raj, MVA leaders meet Maha CEO; flag voter list irregularities

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A delegation of Opposition leaders, including Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and MNS' Raj Thackeray, along with NCP (SP) head Sharad Pawar, on Tuesday met Maharashtra's chief electoral officer (CEO) S Chockalingam and flagged concerns about alleged irregularities in the poll process, including the voters' list.

The Opposition delegation, also comprised leaders from the Congress, Left parties, Peasants and Workers Party and Samajwadi Party.

Another delegation submitted a memorandum to SEC Dinesh Waghmare.

"The meeting will be taken ahead when the delegation meets Maharashtra's CEO and SEC jointly," said Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Raut.

Raut said the BJP, too, should have been part of the meeting because it is the need of the hour to hold elections in a free and fair manner.

"The BJP is making similar demands in Bengal, Kerala and TN. Even the BJP should have been here," Raut said.

More than 60% population of the state's will vote in the elections, which involves 29 municipal corporations, 257 municipal councils, 26 zilla parishads, 289 panchayat samitis - spread across the five geographical regions - Konkan, Western Maharashtra, North Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha.

The delegation demanded the use of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) in the local body polls.

"It is evident that there are a lot of irregularities and it can be seen in various constituencies," NCP (SP) leader Jayant Patil said.

'Violation of rights': Kerala school hijab ban out after education minister steps in

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

Kerala Education Minister V Sivankutty directed a school in Kochi, which had barred a student from wearing a hijab, to permit the girl to do so. The minister issued the directive via a social media post on Tuesday evening, shortly after the student's parents reportedly agreed to comply with the school's uniform norms.

The controversy erupted after St Rita's Public School in Palluruthy, a Christian-managed institution, barred the Class VIII student from wearing the hijab. The school declared a two-day holiday on Monday following attempts by certain groups to incite unrest.

Ernakulam (Kochi) MP Hibi Eden, involved in mediatory talks on Tuesday, earlier told reporters that the student's parents agreed to the school's dress code and wanted their child to continue studying there.

By Tuesday evening, Minister Sivankutty posted on social media, stating that the school authorities had been directed to allow the student to wear a hijab. He also criticised the school for initially denying the student permission to do so.

"Based on a complaint filed by the student's parents, the education department conducted an inquiry and found serious lapses on the part of the school authorities, including a violation of the student's constitutional rights. The school should allow the student to wear a hijab in accordance with her religious beliefs. The authorities may decide the colour and design of the hijab," he said.

The school authorities said that the student had been attending classes in the prescribed uniform until recently, when she began wearing a hijab. They also denied allegations that she was harassed over the issue.

CBI books 3 in Assam engineer suicide case

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The CBI booked two government officials and an architect on charges of abetment of suicide in connection with the death of a young woman engineer in Assam's Bongaigaon.

The accused are Dinesh Medhi Sharma, executive engineer, and Aminul Islam, sub-divisional officer — both from the Public Works Department (PWD) in Bongaigaon — and Debajit Sharma, an architect associated with the private firm M/s Aesthetic Creations. The trio had earlier been arrested by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted by the Assam government following the alleged suicide on July 22.

Joshita Das, a 26-year-old assistant engineer in the PWD, was found dead in her rented room. In a suicide note purportedly written by her, she accused her colleagues of mental harassment, alleging that they pressured her to sign contractor bills despite several anomalies.

The CBI said that according to allegations, Joshita Das had been subjected to illegitimate work pressure by her colleagues and contractors in connection with a mini stadium project. She had been coerced and threatened into approving estimates and bills in an irregular manner.

NCP (SP) backs panel on contentious bills

NEW DELHI, DHNS: NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) will break ranks with other I.N.D.I.A partners to join the Joint Committee of Parliament to examine the contentious Bills for the removal of top political executives detained in jail for at least 30 days in a row.

Sources said NCP (SP) has conveyed its decision to major parties in the bloc.

Earlier this year, NCP (SP) had not joined other I.N.D.I.A bloc parties in the demand seeking a special session of Parliament to discuss the Pahalgam terror strike and subsequent Operation Sindoor.

On Monday, I.N.D.I.A leaders claimed that the entire bloc will not be part of the Joint Committee to examine the Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, and the Union Territories Administration (Amendment) Bill.

There has been a difference of opinion in I.N.D.I.A over not participating in the proceedings of the Joint Committee, with parties like CPM preferring to be part of it and the Congress remaining divided over the issue.

Sabarimala gold row: One more suspended

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: One more employee of the Travancore Devaswom Board has been suspended in connection with the controversy over the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple's missing gold.

Assistant Engineer Sunil Kumar was suspended for allegedly recording the temple's gold plating as copper in official documents handed over to Bengaluru-based Malayali Unnikrishnan Potti, who was tasked with the gold plating work.

At a meeting held on Tuesday, the board also decided to issue notices seeking explanations from retired employees named in the case registered by the Special Investigation Team.

Meanwhile, the Congress is intensifying its campaign against the CPM-led Left Democratic Front government over the issue by launching statewide marches. Four regional marches, each led by senior leaders, began from different parts of the state on Tuesday. The campaign will culminate in a major demonstration on October 18 in Pandalam, where Lord Ayyappa is believed to have spent his childhood.

Another Haryana cop dies by suicide, alleges corruption by late ADGP

Rahul visits Puran Kumar's family, asks PM to act against officials

CHANDIGARH, PTI

A Haryana assistant sub-inspector in Rohtak shot himself dead on Tuesday and purportedly levelled corruption allegations against the late Inspector General Y Puran Kumar, adding a murky twist to the suspected suicide of the senior Dalit officer who served in the same district.

ASI Sandeep Kumar's alleged suicide comes in the backdrop of the escalating row over Puran's death, which has led to a shakeup of the police brass and also become a huge political issue.

Earlier in the day, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the senior officer's family and

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi meets the family members of Haryana IPS officer Y Puran Kumar in Chandigarh. PTI

called for the respect of all Dalits. He asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the state government to take immediate action and arrest the officials responsible.

The second suicide of a Haryana cop has muddied the waters even more, the questions becoming louder, the mystery deeper.

Sandeep Kumar's shock death came hours after the state government late Monday night sent state DGP Shatrujeet Kapur on leave. Before that, the government transferred Narendra Bijarniya, former Rohtak superintendent of police. The two were among the eight officials named by Puran Kumar in a note he left behind.

O P Singh, a 1992-batch IPS officer of DGP rank, has been assigned "additional charge of DGP Haryana during the leave period of Shatrujeet Kapur", according to an official order.

Sandeep Kumar, who was posted in the cyber cell and whose body was recovered from his Rohtak home, left behind a six-minute purported video and a three-page suicide note naming Puran Kumar. The veracity of the video and the statement could not be immediately verified.

Police sources said the ASI played a role in the arrest of head constable Sushil Kumar, an aide of Puran Kumar.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Delhi student sexually assaulted, stripped on campus

NEW DELHI, PTI: An 18-year-old student of Delhi's South Asian University (SAU) was allegedly sexually and physically assaulted, stripped of her clothes and forced to consume an abortion pill by four people, including a security guard, on the campus premises, according to an FIR lodged by the Delhi Police where the victim gives details about harrowing incident.

The first-year BTech student was found injured, with her clothes torn, on campus on October 13, a day after she was reported missing, the police said on Tuesday.

According to the police, an FIR was registered in the matter today. While the victim's statement has been recorded before the district magistrate, the four accused are absconding.

The young woman, in the FIR, alleged that she received sexually explicit and threatening messages over email and social media from a person identified as Aryan Yash in the days leading up to the incident.

The messages included morphed obscene images of the victim and instructions to meet the sender at various locations on campus, according to her statement.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan said, "The investigation is being conducted with due sensitivity and priority. CCTV footage from the campus is being collected to trace the accused."

Prime accused, 2 others in Pansare murder granted bail

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

More than 10 years after veteran Communist leader and rationalist Govind Pansare was shot dead, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted bail to the prime accused, Dr Virendrasinh Tawde, an ENT surgeon.

Justice S G Dige of the HC's Kolhapur bench also granted bail to two other accused—Sharad Kalaskar and Amol Kale.

The bench refused to stay its order at the request of a lawyer appearing for Pansare's family.

While Tawde and Kale will walk out of the prison, Kalaskar, who has been convicted

Govind Pansare

in the murder case of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar in Pune, will continue to be behind bars.

Popularly known as Comrade Pansare, the 82-year-old trade unionist, social activist and CPI leader and his wife, Uma, were fired upon by two motorcycle-borne youths on February 16, 2015, near the couple's home in Kolhapur. Pansare died four days later, on February 20, in Mumbai.

Of the 12 accused identified, nine have been arrested, and four supplementary chargesheets have been filed. While two shooters are still on the run, the trial against these nine accused is on.

In January, six other accused—Sachin Andure, Ganesh Miskin, Amit Degvekar, Amit Baddi, Bharat Kurane, and Vasudev Suryavanshi—were granted bail on the grounds of their prolonged incarceration and the fact that the trial is unlikely to be completed in the near future.

The investigation was initially conducted by the Kohlapur police before being transferred to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Crime Investigation Department (CID). In 2022, the probe was finally transferred to the Anti-Terrorism Squad.

Uttarakhand chief justice to hear whistleblower Chaturvedi's contempt case

NAINITAL, PTI: Uttarakhand Chief Justice G Narendra has constituted a new bench headed by him to hear senior Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Sanjiv Chaturvedi's contempt petition against the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). The move comes after 16 judges recused themselves from cases involving Chaturvedi.

A division bench of the chief justice and Justice Subhash Upadhyay will hear the contempt petition against CAT and members of its registry on October 30.

On October 8, Justice Alok Verma recused himself from the case hearing. Before him, 15 other judges withdrew from hearing various cases involving Chaturvedi.

Sanjiv Chaturvedi

Chaturvedi, who gained recognition as a whistleblower by exposing alleged corruption during his tenure as chief vigilance officer (CVO) at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), has faced repeated judicial rejections in his ongoing legal battles with government agencies.

Before Justice Verma, Justice Ravindra Maithani, Justice Rakesh Thapliyal and Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari also withdrew from cases involving Indian Forest Service Sanjiv Chaturvedi, taking the total number of Uttarakhand High Court judges to four.

In addition, 12 other judges recused themselves from cases where Chaturvedi was a party, a record in itself. These include former Supreme Court judges Justices U U Lalit and Ranjan Gogoi.

According to Chaturvedi, this is a "unique record" in the country, where 16 judges recused themselves from hearing a single individual's cases.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

DOES IT SEEM LIKE THE ECONOMY HAS MADE A SLIGHT UPTICK?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT
THE SIGNS ARE ALL AROUND, LIKE THIS FREE WATER
...AND DITHERS GIVING US OUR SECURITY DEPOSITS BACK ON OUR OFFICE FURNITURE

Hagar The Horrible

I HAVE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS!
THE BAD NEWS IS THE WAGON AND GROCERIES ARE STUCK IN THE LAKE!
THE GOOD NEWS IS THE HORSE ISN'T THIRSTY ANYMORE!

Beetle Bailey

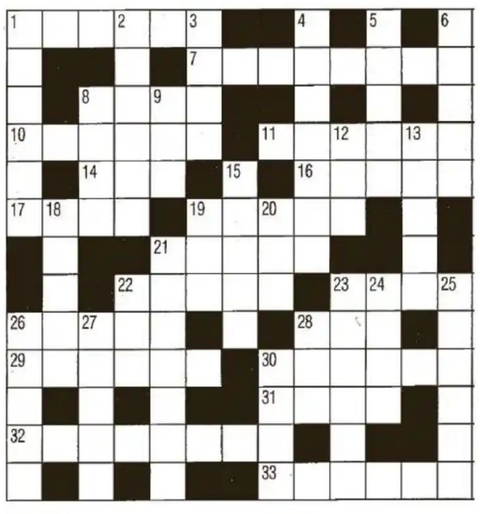
Peanuts

THE NAME OF THE BAR WHERE AUTOMOBILE MECHANICS GO?
I GIVE UP...WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE BAR WHERE AUTOMOBILE MECHANICS GO?
" THE UNIVERSAL JOINT"
TURN UP THE LAUGH TRACK, WALTER!
Hee Hee Hee Hee

Marvin

I DON'T KNOW WHY I CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL LIKE JORDAN
I'M A MULTILINGUAL BABY
I CAN SPEAK ITALIAN BABBLE, FRENCH BABBLE, JAPANESE BABBLE, SPANISH BABBLE, SWEDISH BABBLE AND ENGLISH BABBLE!

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12267



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Main point of a recent report (6)
7 Lively movement can be a job! (8)
8 One upholding a standard? (4)
10 Best suit (6)
11 Sail erratically round the kingdom with a dog (6)
14 Jack goes to it, sitting next to Ted (3)
16 Drive away quietly during the dance (5)
17 Being sown, they're somewhat astonishingly scattered! (4)
19 Revealed a matted beard (5)
21 An old army measure? (5)
22 Got on with the comestibles at the trading centre (5)
23 Not a loud song, but it's dramatic (4)
26 A model problem? (5)
28 Female contributor to the Greyfriars Herald (3)
29 Says what's sure to be wrong about a teetotaller (6)
30 Scold a blundering beater! (6)
31 State of an upper-class bad-hat? (4)
32 Edward's out there, tied up! (8)
33 Unexploded missiles found on the beach (6)

DOWN
1 Cuban Croats, possibly? (6)
2 Father's unlikely to be set on fire! (6)
3 Doesn't drink in the Wheatsheaf (4)
4 Are surrounded by much money in the tower (7)
5 In taking the dog out, she doesn't wrap up warm (3-2)
6 Lyric composer? (5)
8 A necessity in winemaking (4)
9 It's in Belgium, and takes in Spain (3)
12 Guided by a little light (3)
13 Where, abroad, a piece of cake can take any form (5)
15 Be all upset by a tag (5)
18 Royal meeting-place (5)
19 A half buried seed head (3)
20 The right I had to be free (3)
21 Taken for a shaky ride by car (7)
22 Could it make you feel robbed of pounds? (3)
23 Expression used by the Sherpa (6)
24 She has a hotel by the meadow (4)
25 As a matter of interest, say, gives up (6)
26 Puts out for a bit of fun in boats (5)
27 Declare the taste funny (5)
28 Adjust the radio? (3)
30 Potential bloomers (4)

ACROSS
1 Deliver a sermon (6)
7 Unexpectedly (8)
8 Unruly child (4)
10 Seats (6)
11 Lampoon (6)
14 Rodent (3)
16 Male voice (5)
17 Single combat (4)
19 Senior member (5)
21 Writing material (5)
22 Capital of Morocco (5)
23 Coarse file (4)
26 Ancient language (5)
28 Small flap (3)
29 Beast (6)
30 Rule (6)
31 Leave out (4)
32 Refined (8)
33 Fat (6)

DOWN
1 Calm (6)
2 Antenna (6)
3 Cabins (4)
4 Pullover (7)
5 Coach (5)
6 Garden flower (5)
8 Unclothed (4)
9 Skill (3)
12 Number (3)
13 Wanders (5)
15 Gemstone (5)
18 Of a town (5)
19 Flatfish (3)
20 Still (3)
21 Universal remedy (7)
22 Raised edge (3)
23 Deep narrow gauge (6)
24 Assist in a crime (4)
25 Larder (6)
26 Endures (5)
27 Slightly drunk (5)
28 Male cat (3)
30 Sport (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12266

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Sweat 6, Hedge(-hopping) 9, Mum-bled 10, Groan 11, Silly 12, Se-NS-e 13, Reports 15, Lo-b 17, O-din 18, Marina 19, (water)Me-Lon 20, Setter 22, Silo 24, Era 25, Stand-in 26, Smit-h 27, Mafia 28, Stain 29, Titanic 30, FA-med. 31, T-H-ugs.
DOWN: 2, War-Med 3, Amazon 4, Tun 5, Obo-E-s 6, Hessian 7, Edie 8, Gallon 12, St.-e'er 13, R-Ouse 14, Pitta 15, LIVID 16, Baton 18, Mouth 19, Mermaid 21, Errata 22, Snitch 23, Living 25, Straw 26, Site 28, Sit.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Depot 6, Romps 9, Ruction 10, Remit 11, Suits 12, Fuses 13, Deficit 15, Cob 17, Anon 18, Stroll 19, Irate 20, Drudge 22, Race 24, Yam 25, Develop 26, Poker 27, Cater 28, Weepy 29, Leotard 30, Pests 31, Yells.
DOWN: 2, Eleven 3, Origin 4, Tut 5, Strut 6, Rosette 7, Onus 8, Petrol 12, Fibre 13, Dandy 14, Forum 15, Coral 16, Bleep 18, Steer 19, Ignores 21, Ravage 22, Recede 23, Compel 25, Death 26, Pelt 28, Wry.

◆SU-DO-KU-6726◆

4	2		9		5			
6	8				3	9		
			2					
1		4					7	
3								8
	9					4		6
					2			
		7	4				1	5
			6		7		2	9

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6725

8	5	3	4	9	6	2	7	1
2	9	7	8	3	1	4	6	5
1	4	6	2	7	5	3	8	9
3	2	8	6	4	9	5	1	7
5	7	4	3	1	8	6	9	2
9	6	1	5	2	7	8	4	3
6	3	9	7	5	4	1	2	8
4	1	5	9	8	2	7	3	6
7	8	2	1	6	3	9	5	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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M3	R1	A1	A1	C3	S1	S1	4th Letter Triple	RACK 1
I1	O1	V4	S1	T1	R1	I1		RACK 2
A1	C3	N1	M3	H4	E1	I1		RACK 3
T1	H4	C3	A1	A1	S1	Y4	4th Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 105-115
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

G2	U1	M3	S1	H4	O1	E1	RACK 1	= 76
Q10	U1	A1	G2	G2	A1		RACK 2	= 51
R1	I1	C3	H4	E1	S1		RACK 3	= 11
R1	E1	V4	I1	E1	W4	S1	RACK 4	= 63
							JUDD'S TOTAL	201

PAR SCORE 130-140

HITORI-3180

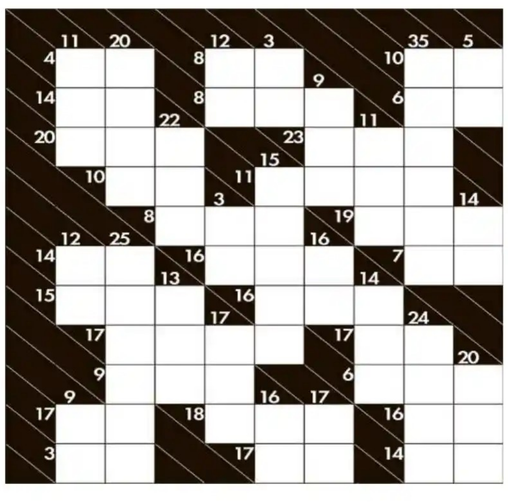
1	2	6	2	1	3	4	8
3	6	5	4	8	1	8	4
4	3	2	5	2	7	3	4
4	4	1	7	3	2	6	2
8	2	3	2	6	4	2	7
7	5	8	6	2	8	1	5
1	1	8	3	5	2	7	3
5	3	7	1	4	2	3	6

SOLUTION TO 3179

■	5	8	■	7	3	■	6
5	■	4	6	2	■	8	3
2	4	6	3	■	5	■	8
■	8	3	■	4	1	5	7
1	3	7	8	■	6	4	5
7	■	1	2	6	8	■	4
8	1	■	4	■	7	6	2
4	■	5	1	8	■	3	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3180



SOLUTION TO 3179

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3706

■		3	8	6			4	■
	■						■	5
		■		2		■		
	3		■		■			7
1				■				
		7	■		1			
	2	■	3		8	■		1
	■			5			8	9
■			9	4		3		■

SOLUTION TO 3705

3	2	5	8	1	6	9	7	4
9	4	8	5	2	7	6	1	3
7	1	6	9	3	4	8	2	5
1	8	3	7	4	2	5	9	6
4	7	2	6	5	9	1	3	8
5	6	9	3	8	1	7	4	2
8	5	7	4	9	3	2	6	1
2	9	4	1	6	5	3	8	7
6	3	1	2	7	8	4	5	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

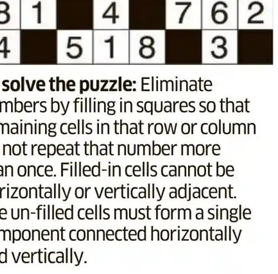
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ELFTE

PHYPA

FRIHTT

BSTMIU


Isn't it exhausting being used in words and math?
I wish I could do math.
It's not that bad. I'm not in that many words anyway.
THE LETTER "X" DIDN'T MIND BEING USED AS THE MULTIPLICATION SIGN ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: THUMP SHAME FAIRLY EXPORT
Answer: The problem with his ears was just wax buildup, which he was — HAPPY TO HEAR

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POTENTIAL GLOBAL TEST

Australia says social media ban is 'for the good of our kids'

Canberra pushes awareness drive ahead of teen social media ban

SYDNEY, REUTERS

Australia has launched a multimillion-dollar marketing campaign promoting its world-first ban on social media for teenagers as being "for the good of our kids", ahead of the law's implementation in December.

The A$14 million (US$9.05 million) campaign, titled "For The Good Of", will be rolled out across television, billboards and, "ironically", social media from Sunday, Communications Minister Anika Wells said on Tuesday.

Wells said the campaign aims to raise awareness about the upcoming changes for families and to encourage parents to "start having conversations" with their children about the ban.

"It's called For The Good Of, and it means for the good of our kids. We're doing these things, ultimately, for the good of young people in Australia," she told reporters.

The 45-second promotional video shows several children engrossed in their phones while a voiceover says: "For the good of Kirsty, for the good of Lucy and Anya, for the good of Sam, for the good of Holly, for the good of Noah, for the good of their wellbeing."

FIGHTING SCREEN TIME

- Starting December 10, people under 16 will no longer be allowed to have social media accounts
- A$14 million 'For The Good Of' awareness' campaign launched across TV, billboards and social media to help families prepare for the ban

It continues: "From 10 December, people under the age of 16 will no longer have access to social media accounts. It's part of a new law to keep under-16s safer online."

Australia's ban, passed into law in November 2024, raises the minimum age for opening social media accounts from 13 to 16. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's centre-left government said research showed excessive social media use was harming young teens by spreading misinformation, enabling bullying and promoting unhealthy body image ideals.

Governments around the world are watching closely as Australia prepares to implement the ban, while major social media platforms have expressed concerns.

At a parliamentary hearing on Monday, YouTube warned that the programme could have "unintended consequences" and would be "extremely difficult" to enforce. The Alphabet-owned platform has also suggested it may pursue legal action over its inclusion in the ban.

Wells said she would meet this week with major social media companies — including Meta, TikTok and Snapchat — to "reinforce the government's expectation about how they will enforce the law".

"I am confident they understand their obligations under Australian law and that they will deliver on those obligations," she said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Activists from the Coordination of the Indigenous Organisations of the Brazilian Amazon hold a rally in Brasília, Brazil, on Tuesday, urging COP30 negotiators to protect the Amazon rainforest. REUTERS

Chinese President Xi meets Lankan PM Amarasuriya

▸ Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya and called for strengthening of cooperation in a host of sectors, including collaboration in law enforcement and security between the two countries, PTI reports from Beijing.

Xi told Amarasuriya that China is willing to jointly promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with Sri Lanka and expand cooperation in fields such as port economy, modern agriculture, digital economy, green economy, and tourism. Amarasuriya, who arrived in Beijing on Sunday, took part in the international Global Leaders' Meeting on Women on Monday and later held talks with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and China's top political advisor Wang Huning. In his meeting with Amarasuriya, Xi called for strengthening cooperation in law enforcement and security, and resolutely crack down on cross-border gambling, fraud and other criminal activities, Xinhua news agency reported.

Maritime meet to slash fossil fuels

▸ The world's largest maritime nations are gathering in London on Tuesday to consider adopting regulations that would move the shipping industry away from fossil fuels to slash emissions, AP/PTI reports from London.

If the deal is adopted, this will be the first time a global fee is imposed on planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions. Most ships today run on heavy fuel oil that releases carbon dioxide and other pollutants as it's burned. Nations are meeting at the International Maritime Organization headquarters through Friday to work out a solution. The Trump administration unequivocally rejects the proposal and has threatened to retaliate if nations support it, setting the stage for a fight over the climate deal.

A SpaceX Super Heavy booster carrying the Starship spacecraft lifts off on its 11th test flight in Starbase, Texas (US) on Monday. REUTERS

Military coup in Madagascar

▸ A colonel in an elite military unit in Madagascar said on Tuesday the armed forces are taking power in the Indian Ocean nation, AP/PTI reports from Antananarivo (Madagascar).

His announcement came almost immediately after parliament voted to impeach President Andry Rajoelina, who had fled the country because of the rebellion by soldiers.

Col. Michael Randrianirina said in front of reporters that the military would form a council composed of officers from the army and the gendarmerie law enforcement force. A prime minister would be appointed to "quickly" form a civilian government, he said. It appeared to spell the end of Rajoelina's seven years as leader of the country.

Venezuela's Norway embassy shut

▸ Norway's foreign ministry on Monday said Venezuela had closed its embassy in Oslo, without giving a reason, days after opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, AFP reports from Oslo.

"We have been informed by the embassy of Venezuela that it is shutting its doors and no reason has been given," foreign ministry spokeswoman Cecilie Roang told AFP in an email. "It is regrettable. Despite our differences on several issues, Norway wishes to keep the dialogue open with Venezuela and will continue to work in this direction," she added. According to the Verdens Gang daily, which revealed the information, the embassy services were no longer answering the phone on Monday afternoon.

Actress Naomi Watts poses on her newly unveiled star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, California on Monday. REUTERS

People take part in a protest during a strike in Brussels on Tuesday. REUTERS

Belgium general strike grounds airlines, disrupts public transport

BRUSSELS, REUTERS: A general strike held in Belgium on Tuesday grounded most airplanes at the two main airports and disrupted public transport in Brussels.

About 80,000 people demonstrated between Brussels' Gare du Nord and Gare du Midi train stations, crossing the entire city centre, Brussels police estimated.

A few dozen people were detained by police following incidents that included fires set on the capital's big boulevards.

The strike was the latest in a series of protests this year against the government's proposals to reform pensions and the labour market.

All flights due to depart from Brussels International Airport and about half of those scheduled to land were cancelled as staff from the security firm providing X-ray screening walked out on Tuesday, a spokesperson for the airport said.

No plane is taking off or landing at the country's second largest airport, in Charleroi, 60 km (40 miles) south of Brussels, according to its website.

Most of the Brussels underground train, bus and tram lines were cut as a result of the strike, public transport operator STIB said in a post on social media platform X.

Hamas launches Gaza crackdown as truce holds

Group releases street execution video of 'collaborators'

JERUSALEM, AFP

Hamas tightened its grip on Gaza's ruined cities Tuesday, launching a crackdown and executing alleged collaborators, even as global support mounted for a US-backed deal that would see them disarmed.

The Palestinian armed group published a video on its official channel showing the street execution of eight blindfolded and kneeling suspects, branding them "collaborators and outlaws".

The footage, apparently from Monday evening, emerged as armed clashes were underway between Hamas's various security units and armed Palestinian clans in parts of the territory, on the fifth day of a US-brokered truce between Hamas and Israel.

In the north of the territory, as Israeli forces withdrew from Gaza City, the Hamas government's black-masked armed police have resumed street patrols. When bus loads of prisoners freed from Israeli jails arrived in Gaza on Monday, fighters from Hamas's Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades provided crowd control.

Meanwhile, a Hamas security unit has been conducting operations against armed clans and gangs, some alleged to have Israeli backing.

"Intense clashes broke out -- and are still ongoing at the moment -- as part of efforts to eliminate collaborators," said witness Yahya, who asked not to be named in full for fear of retribution. Another Gaza resident, Mohammed, told AFP: "For long hours this morning there were heavy clashes between Hamas security forces and members of the Hilles family."

The fighting was in Shujaiya, in the east of Gaza City, close to the so-called Yellow Line, behind which Israeli units still hold roughly half of Gaza.

Hamas also accused Israel of breaking the truce by killing six Gazans on Tuesday, five in Gaza City when they were inspecting their home, the civil defence agency reported.

Trucks carry aid for Palestinians enter Khan Younis in Gaza on Tuesday. REUTERS

RETURN OF BODIES

- Israel cuts agreed aid into Gaza over slow release of hostage bodies
- Hamas has handed over four coffins of dead hostages, leaving at least 23 dead and one unaccounted for still in Gaza. The group says it will return more bodies on Tuesday.

Trump warns Hamas to disarm or face force

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump on Tuesday warned that the United States would "disarm" Hamas if the Palestinian militant group failed to do so itself, adding that it could happen "quickly and by force if necessary."

"If they don't disarm, we will disarm them," Trump told reporters at the White House, a day after returning from the Middle East, where he attended celebrations marking the Gaza ceasefire. "And it will happen quickly and perhaps violently." Trump also urged Hamas to release the remaining bodies of hostages held in Gaza, saying it was time to move to the next phase of the deal he brokered during his regional visit.

"All twenty hostages are back and feeling as good as can be expected. A big burden has been lifted, but the job is not done," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "The dead have not been returned, as promised! Phase Two begins right now!!!" he added.

The US president's remarks came just hours after his lightning trip to Israel and Egypt, reflecting the uncertainty that still hangs over the ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas.

During his visit, Trump declared "a historic dawn of a new Middle East," as he and regional leaders signed a joint declaration aimed at cementing the ceasefire in Gaza.

Under the terms of the agreement, the remaining 20 live hostages seized during Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel were freed shortly before Trump arrived in the country. However, while Hamas returned four bodies on Monday, the Palestinian armed group is still holding the remains of 24 hostages, which are expected to be handed over as part of the ceasefire deal.

India growing force on world stage, says Starmer

LONDON, PTI: British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Tuesday updated the House of Commons on his two-day visit to Mumbai last week with the country's biggest trade delegation to India, scoring deals worth around 1.3 billion pounds.

Addressing Parliament as it resumed from recess this week, Starmer said both countries were united by the future following a "historic" trade deal struck in July to open up new opportunities for businesses and boost job creation.

The India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UK visit two months ago, is expected to significantly enhance the bilateral trade partnership from the current 44 billion pounds a year. "India is a growing force on the world stage, on track to have the third largest economy by 2028," said Starmer.

"So, in addition to the bond we already shared, the living bridge of family and history, we are also united by the future and the incredible opportunities that we see before us. That's why, back in July, we signed a historic trade deal, opening up new opportunities for British businesses in India. And that's why, last week, I led the biggest British trade delegation to India ever," he said.

Updating British MPs on his talks with Modi during his first official visit to India as UK prime minister, Starmer highlighted that more British universities are set to open campuses in India, making the UK a leading international education provider in the country. "We're deepening the UK-India Technology Security Initiative to boost opportunities for our brilliant tech sector."

Will fight the US to the end in trade war, says China

Trade tensions soar as Trump plans 100% tariff on Chinese goods

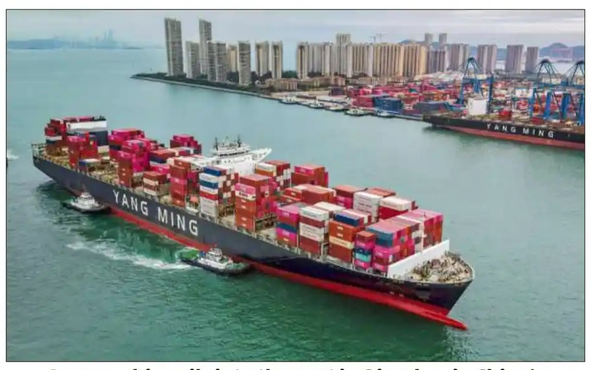
BEIJING, AFP

China said on Tuesday it was ready to "fight to the end" in a trade war with the United States after President Donald Trump announced plans to impose an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods.

The move, revealed in a social media post on Friday, came in response to Beijing's announcement last week of sweeping new export controls in the strategic field of rare earths — a market currently dominated by China.

Trump also stated that Washington would introduce export controls "on any and all critical software" from 1 November.

The latest escalation has rattled markets and cast doubt on a possible upcoming meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea.



A cargo ship sails into the port in Qingdao, in China's Shandong province on Monday. China's exports to the US jumped more than 8% in September, despite days of worsening trade tensions. AFP

"On the matter of tariff wars and trade wars, China's position remains consistent," an unnamed commerce ministry spokesperson said in a statement on Tuesday.

"If you wish to fight, we shall fight to the end; if you wish to negotiate, our door remains open," the statement added.

"The United States cannot simultaneously seek dialogue while threatening to impose new restrictive measures. This is not the proper way to engage with China."

Trump appeared to soften his tone in a Sunday social media post, saying "it will all be fine" and adding that the US wanted to "help" China. On Monday, as the outlook for trade with the US darkened, newly released official data for September showed that China's overseas shipments remained resilient.

SCOTT BESSENT
US Treasury Secretary

"They are in the middle of a recession or depression, and they are trying to export their way out of it

16 killed in fire at garment factory and warehouse in Bangladesh

DHAKA, PTI: At least 16 workers were killed and several others injured on Tuesday in a fire that broke out at a four-storey garment factory and a chemical warehouse in the Bangladeshi capital, officials said.

The devastating fire broke out at a chemical warehouse next to the garment factory in Dhaka's Rupnagar area, Talha Bin Jasim, an officer at the Fire Service and Civil Defence Media Wing, was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

"During the search campaign, 16 bodies were recovered from the garment factory alone," Fire Service spokesman Anwarul Islam said. He said fire was suspected to have broken out from the chemical warehouse and spread to the garments unit - Anwar Fashion Garments Factory and Shah Alam Chemical Warehouse.

"We have extinguished the fire at the garment factory, but efforts are still underway to douse the blaze at the chemical depot," Islam said.

Fire Service officials confirmed the toll, but said the victims have not yet been identified.

UK imposes tougher English tests for skilled visa applicants

LONDON, PTI

The UK government on Tuesday tabled tougher new English language test requirements for visa applicants, including those from India, in Parliament as part of a broader crackdown on rising immigration levels to the country.

The new "Secure English Language Test" will be conducted by a Home Office-approved provider, with results to be verified as part of the subsequent visa application process for all skilled workers from 8 January 2026.

Applicants' proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing English must be equivalent to A-Level (Class 12), referred to as level B2, which the Home Office believes will ensure that applicants are "better able to integrate into life in the UK".

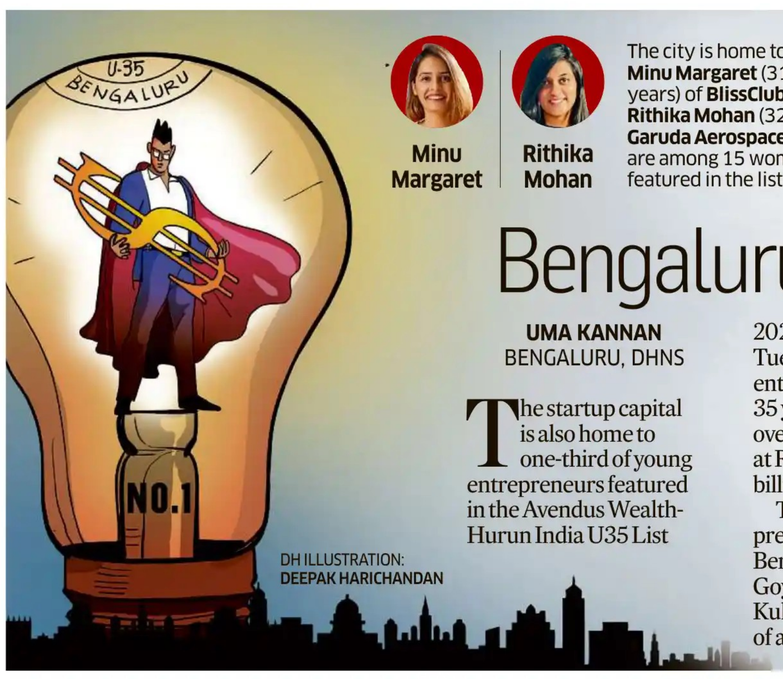
"This country has always welcomed those who come here and contribute, but it is unacceptable for migrants to arrive without learning our language and being unable to contribute to our national life," said UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood.

"If you come to this country, you must learn our language and play your part," she added.

Outlined as part of a written ministerial statement in the House of Commons this week, the measures are included in the British government's 'Immigration White Paper' from May, designed to tighten the visa regime.

Among the other legal changes, the period for international students to find a graduate-level job after completing their studies under the Graduate Route visa—popular among Indian students—will be reduced from two years to 18 months starting 1 January 2027. However, PhD-level graduates will continue to be eligible for three years of stay, as announced earlier this year.

"This change is informed by data showing that too many graduates are not progressing into graduate-level employment, which the Graduate Route was created to facilitate. It is intended to ensure that those who remain in the UK transition into graduate-level jobs and properly contribute to the UK economy," said Home Office Minister Mike Tapp in a parliamentary statement.



DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Minu Margaret

Rithika Mohan

The city is home to **Minu Margaret** (31 years) of **BlissClub** and **Rithika Mohan** (32) of **Garuda Aerospace**, who are among 15 women featured in the list

54 entrants

Bengaluru tops the list with **54 entrants**, featuring notable names such as **Shashank Kumar, Harshil Mathur** and **Vidit Aatrey**, cementing its status as India's startup capital.

Shashank Kumar

Harshil Mathur

Vidit Aatrey

36 companies

With 36 companies, Bengaluru hosts the highest number of U35-led companies

The featured entrepreneurs collectively oversee enterprises valued at **Rs 39 lakh crore**

Bengaluru leads Avendus Wealth-Hurun India U35 List 2025

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

The startup capital is also home to one-third of young entrepreneurs featured in the Avendus Wealth-Hurun India U35 List

2025. The list, released on Tuesday, has a line-up of 155 entrepreneurs aged under 35 years, who collectively oversee enterprises valued at Rs 39 lakh crore ($443 billion).

The youngest entrepreneurs (31 years) from Bengaluru include Vikas Goyal of audio platform Kuku FM, Minu Margaret of activelife wear brand BlissClub, Milan Pal Singh of software startup Rattle and Misbah Ashraf of savings app Jar. The city features notable names such as Shashank Kumar (35), Harshil Mathur(34) of fintech unicorn Razorpay and Vidit Aatrey(35) of social commerce platform Meesho. With 36 firms, Bengaluru also hosts the highest number of U35-led companies, followed by Mumbai, 25, Gurugram, 13, New Delhi, 7 and Noida, 6.

"Bengaluru's dominance in the U35 List is not surprising. The city combines deep technical talent, dense networks of operators and investors and a culture that rewards innovation. Those elements create a rare feedback loop: talent attracts companies, companies attract capital and visible success in turn attracts more talent. The result is a concentration of founders who can move from idea to scale faster than anywhere else in the country," Apurva Sahijwani, MD & CEO, Avendus Wealth Management, told *DH*.

For wealth creators under 35, Bengaluru offers both the operational ecosystem to build meaningful businesses and the investor ecosystem to turn scale into sustainable enterprise value, he added. Also, many Bengaluru-based founders are now moving beyond tech and fintech into real-economy sectors such as clean energy, logistics, and manufacturing. "That shift is a signal of maturity. Early cycles of entrepreneurship in Bengaluru were dominated by software-led, capital-efficient models. The U35 cohort now demonstrates a deliberate move into capital-intensive, impact-oriented areas, such as clean energy, logistics and manufacturing, which require different capabilities, longer time horizons and deeper operational rigor," Sahijwani underscored.

IN BRIEF

Gold breaches Rs 1.3L/10 gm

NEW DELHI, PTI: Gold prices on Tuesday surged by Rs 2,850 to breach the Rs 1.3 lakh per 10 gram-mark for the first time in the national capital, driven by heavy festive buying by retailers and jewellers ahead of 'Dhanteras'. Silver also surged by Rs 6,000 to hit a lifetime high of Rs 1,85,000 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes), marking its fifth consecutive day of gains.

B'luru to host Supercomputing India 2025 in December

BENGALURU, DHNS: Over 5,000 attendees, 200 speakers and delegates from over 15 countries will participate in Supercomputing India 2025 (SCI 2025), which will be held between December 9 and 13, 2025, at the Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), Bengaluru. The theme of the event is Powering the Future: HPC (High-Performance Computing), AI and Quantum. This is the first time Bengaluru with be hosting the event organised by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, Bengaluru, under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

FKCCI seeks 30% reservation for women in industrial parks

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has sought 30% reservation in allotment of industrial land/ sheds for women in upcoming industrial parks in the state. The FKCCI has also urged both the central and state governments to come out with a separate policy for micro and small scale industries as 97% of the MSME units are micro and small scale. Speaking to reporters, Uma Reddy, President of FKCCI said, "By providing 30% reservation to women entrepreneurs in all new industrial townships, we can encourage more women to turn entrepreneurs."

Google to pitch $15 bn in mega data campus at Vizag

Spread over 5 years, it will be the tech giant's biggest India investment yet

SNV SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Tech giant Google on Tuesday announced India's largest AI data centre campus and new green energy infrastructure in Andhra Pradesh's coastal city Visakhapatnam with an investment outlay of $15 billion over five years from 2026-2030.

This investment of approximately $15 billion is Google's largest investment in India to date. Google's AI hub in Visakhapatnam comprises gigawatt-scale data centre operations, supported by a robust subsea cable network and clean energy, to drive the most demanding AI workloads in India.

It will be brought to life in close collaboration with ecosystem partners including Adani Group's joint venture, AdaniConneX and Airtel. "We are very pleased to announce a new gigawatt-scale AI hub in Visakhapatnam the largest AI hub we are going to be investing in anywhere in the world outside of the United States," said Google Cloud Global CEO Thomas Kurien at Bharat AI Shakti, event hosted by Google in New Delhi, and a pre-event to the India-AI Impact Summit 2026 on Tuesday in the presence of Railways & IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and IT minister Nara Lokesh.

Kurien added that this facility will be part of a global network of AI centres spread across 12 countries, with Visakhapatnam emerging as the flagship hub outside the US. Additionally, Google Cloud plans to transform Visakhapatnam into a global connectivity hub by landing its subsea cable infrastructure in the city. This will be integrated into Google's global subsea network, making Visakhapatnam a major digital backbone for India connecting multiple regions and strengthening the country's technological ecosystem.

Google and Alphabet CEO, Sundar Pichai also took to social media to announce the new investment. "This hub combines gigawatt-scale compute capacity, a new international subsea gateway, and large-scale energy infrastructure. Through it we will bring our industry-leading technology to enterprises and users in India, accelerating AI innovation and driving growth across the country," said Sundar Pichai in a social media post.

"AI is key to addressing some of our most pressing challenges, from agriculture and manufacturing to healthcare and finance. It will transform critical sectors, bring far-reaching benefits to our people, enhance governance, empower businesses, and improve lives.With this partnership, we are laying the groundwork for a generation of innovators and leaders who will carry India's technological legacy forward," said Naidu

AP'S BIG INVESTMENT PUSH

Google Cloud Global CEO Thomas Kurien (extreme right) announced the investment at Bharat AI Shakti hosted by the company in New Delhi in the presence of Union Railways & IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N Chandrababu Naidu, IT minister Nara Lokesh and Google Cloud's Vice President of Global Infrastructure and Capacity, Bikash Koley (extreme left).

$15 billion is Google's largest investment in India

AI hub in **Visakhapatnam** is Google's largest anywhere in the world

Google partners **Adani Group** and **Airtel** to execute this project

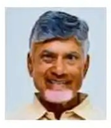
This facility is part of a global network of AI centres spread across **12 countries**

It will be commissioned in **five years**

This hub combines gigawatt-scale compute capacity

It includes a new international subsea gateway. It has a large-scale energy infrastructure

CHANDRABABU NAIDU
Chief Minister



"With this partnership, we are laying the groundwork for a generation of innovators and leaders who will carry India's technological legacy forward.

Vizag AI hub to boost Google user experiences in India

Google's proposed AI hub investment in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam includes building a new international subsea gateway on India's eastern coast. The project will bring multiple international subsea cables to land in Visakhapatnam, connecting to Google's more than two million miles of terrestrial and subsea cable infrastructure worldwide.

Developed in partnership with AdaniConneX and Bharti Airtel, the initiative will establish Visakhapatnam as a prominent AI and connectivity hub serving both India and global markets. The facility will be powered by the same advanced infrastructure that supports flagship Google products, including Search, Workspace, and YouTube.

Google representatives said the AI hub will deliver high-performance, low-latency services crucial for businesses, researchers, and innovators to build and scale AI-powered solutions.

Infosys bags over Rs 14,100-crore NHS contract

Its a 15-yr deal for data-driven HR solutions

BENGALURU, DHNS

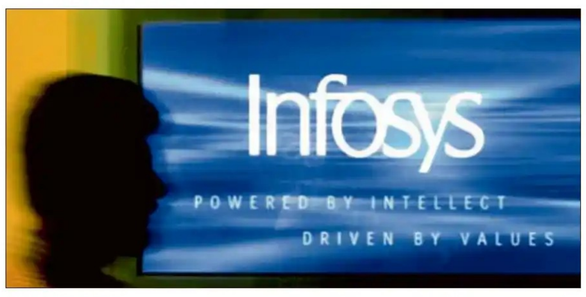
IT services firm Infosys has won a contract worth over Rs 14,100 crore (£1.2 billion) from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) to deliver the Future NHS Workforce Solution. Under this 15-year contract, the IT firm will develop a data-driven workforce management solution to replace the current Electronic Staff Record (ESR) system, and the new platform will continue to manage payroll for 1.9 million NHS employees in England and Wales. Salil Parekh, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Infosys, said, "The NHS is a cornerstone of life in the UK, providing vital services that touch the lives of millions every day. We are honoured to be chosen by the NHSBSA to deliver generational change for employees of the NHS in England and Wales through the Future Workforce Solution."

He added, "With our extensive experience in delivering digital transformation and organisational change for global entities, combined with elements of our AI offering - Infosys Topaz, we will deliver a platform that not only drives efficiency today but empowers the NHS to elevate its invaluable work into the future."

The NHSBSA is an arm's length body of the Department of Health and Social Care and provides a range of critical central services to NHS organisations, NHS contractors, patients and the public.

The Future NHS Workforce Solution supports the NHS 10-year Health Plan and the mission to create a workforce that is fit for the future. This will be achieved through investment in infrastructure that will support the NHS workforce with a modern and future-proof solution, giving healthcare workers the tools they need to free up time to continue delivering excellent patient care, the company said in a statement.

Powered by advanced technologies, the new solution will deliver a modern, flexible, and integrated platform that supports the entire employee lifecycle - from recruitment and onboarding to payroll, career development, and retirement. With intuitive, AI-driven tools, it will streamline workforce planning and enable data-driven decision-making.



Tech Mahindra Q2 net profit declines 4.4% to Rs 1,194 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

Tech Mahindra on Tuesday posted a 4.4% decline in its consolidated net profit at Rs 1,194.5 crore for the quarter ended September 2025, missing the street estimate of Rs 1,300 crore. The company's net profit in the year-ago period stood at Rs 1,250 crore.

Its revenue from operations for the quarter was Rs 13,995 crore, a 5.1% increase compared to Rs 13,313 crore in the same quarter last year. Tech Mahindra's EBIT stood at Rs 1,699 crore, up 32.7% year-on-year (YoY), and new deal wins in the second quarter of this fiscal were at $816 million.

Mohit Joshi, CEO and Managing Director, Tech Mahindra, said that they delivered broad-based growth this quarter, reflecting the strength of strategy and execution. "We launched TechM Orion, our next-generation AI platform, and TechM Orion Marketplace to help enterprises accelerate autonomous transformation. Being recognised by industry analysts reinforces our leadership in advancing next-generation AI," he said.

Rohit Anand, Chief Financial Officer, Tech Mahindra, said, "This quarter marks the eighth consecutive period of margin expansion, driven by operational efficiency and disciplined execution. Our deal TCV is up 57% year-on-year on an LTM basis, supported by strong deal conversions. The Board has approved a dividend of Rs 15 per share reflecting our continued focus on shareholder value."

The IT firm's total headcount in the September quarter was at 152,714, down 1,559 YoY, and IT attrition stood at 12.8%.

The company's Americas revenue fell 2.7% YoY in the second quarter. While revenue from Europe grew 5.5%, the 'rest of world' revenue declined 0.5% YoY. Tech Mahindra's Communications vertical declined 2.2% YoY and BFSI vertical grew 6.2% during the quarter.

LG eclipses South Korean parent in $13 billion trading debut

REUTERS: LG Electronics India surged 50.4% in its trading debut on Tuesday and notched a valuation of $13.07 billion, eclipsing its South Korean parent's market capitalisation, as investors piled into the country's most bid-for IPO since 2008.

Shares of the Indian arm of LG Electronics made a strong debut on the National Stock Exchange of India, opening at Rs 1,710.10 and rising to Rs 1,714.90, well above the issue price of Rs 1,140. The debut valued the company above its $8.73 billion target and its South Korean parent's roughly $9 billion market cap. It also put the firm ahead of its India-listed peers such as Whirlpool, Voltas, and Havells, which are valued between $1.7 billion and $10.4 billion.

The company's listing performance was the best for a billion-dollar IPO in India since 2021, and comes in the midst of what is India's second-busiest quarter on record for IPOs, with WeWork India and Tata Capital posting lacklustre debuts in recent days.

"After a long time, we're seeing a genuinely strong IPO in the consumer space — solid fundamentals, reasonable valuations and sector-leading growth prospects," said Dhiraj Relli, managing director and CEO of HDFC Securities.

LG Electronics, India's second-biggest appliance maker, whipped up strong demand at the bidding stage.

IMF raises GDP growth forecast to 6.6% for FY26

NEW DELHI, PTI: International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday revised upwards India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.6% compared to its earlier estimate of 6.4% on the back of strong growth, offsetting the impact of US tariffs on Indian shipments.

In its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), the multilateral lending agency also lowered the growth forecast by 20 basis points to 6.2% for 2026-27.

"Compared with the July WEO Update, this is an upward revision for 2025, with carryover from a strong first quarter more than offsetting the increase in the US effective tariff rate on imports from India since July, and a downward revision for 2026," the report said.

The Indian economy grew by 7.8% in April-June -- the highest in five quarters -- before the disruptive US tariffs were imposed.

Earlier this month, the World Bank also raised India's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 6.5% from 6.3% estimated earlier, saying the country is expected to remain the fastest-growing major economy.

In July, the IMF revised its forecast for India's economic growth to 6.4% for both 2025 and 2026. In its April 2025 World Economic Outlook, it had projected the country's economic growth at 6.2% for 2025 and 6.3% for 2026.

The IMF further said global growth is projected to slow from 3.3% in 2024 to 3.2% in 2025 and to 3.1% in 2026.

This is an improvement relative to the July WEO Update -- but cumulatively 0.2 percentage point below forecasts made before the policy shifts in the October 2024 WEO, with the slowdown reflecting headwinds from uncertainty and protectionism, even though the tariff shock is smaller than originally announced.

Sept WPI eases to 0.13% YoY

NEW DELHI, REUTERS: India's wholesale price inflation in September eased to 0.13% year-on-year (YoY) from 0.52% in the previous month, helped by a decline in food and fuel prices, government data showed on Tuesday. Economists polled by Reuters had projected the wholesale price index to rise 0.5% year-on-year in September.

REALTY CHECK

India's branded residential projects growing in prominence

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

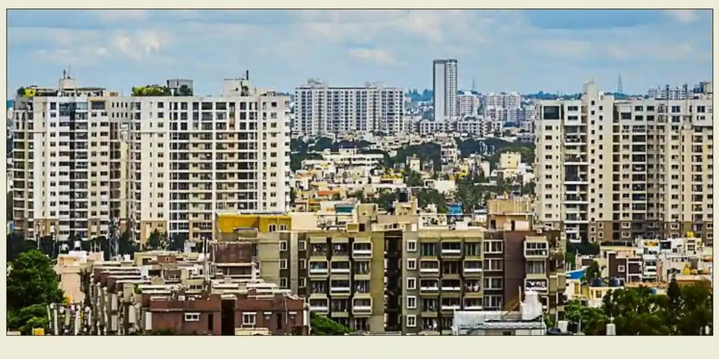
India's position in the branded residence projects is growing remarkably though still nascent as compared to global leaders like the United States of America, United Kingdom and United Arab Emirates, according to a new report by Knight Frank.

The Residence Report 2025 features India's growing prominence in the global branded residences market, ranking 6th worldwide in live projects and contributing 4% to global supply of branded residences.

The country also ranks 10th globally in the pipeline of upcoming branded residence projects, accounting for 2% of future supply among the 83 countries surveyed.

Mumbai, Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru, and Pune lead India's branded residence landscape, while Goa and Uttarakhand are emerging as key lifestyle and second-home destinations. Knight Frank notes that the country's rapidly evolving real estate ecosystem, coupled with its strong luxury demand, positions India as one of the fastest-growing frontiers for branded developments in the Asia-Pacific region.

"India's branded residence sector is still relatively young but is rapidly making its mark on the global stage. Ranking 6th worldwide for live projects and



backed by a fast-expanding wealth base of nearly 86,000 ultra-rich individuals, India represents one of the most significant pools of future demand for branded living. What makes the market unique is the way these residences blend international brand prestige with culturally nuanced design and services, appealing to buyers who seek exclusivity, security, and a truly global lifestyle," said Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India.

According to the report, India's position highlights its growing, but still nascent role, in the segment compared to global leaders like the USA, UAE, and UK. Importantly, the country's rising wealth base is fuelling future demand.

In 2024, India was home to nearly 85,698 individuals with a net worth of USD 10+ mn, representing 3.7% of the global high-net-worth population. This expanding affluent base is fuelling demand for branded residences that blend global brand prestige with culturally attuned design and world-class amenities.

IN BRIEF

Postal hold State Police 3-3

▸ Karnataka Postal held Karnataka State Police to a 3-3 draw in the latest Hockey Karnataka League Championship at the FMKMC Hockey Arena in Bengaluru, reports DHNS. Palaniswamy (40th minute) and Rajanth (36th) scored twice in the third quarter for Postal to level the score 3-3 after the policemen took 3-1 lead, reports DHNS.

Results: Karnataka State Police: 3 (Vasanth Kumar 3rd, Umesh Mutagar 27th, Manikanta Bijwad 31st) drew with Postal: 3 (Naveen Kumar M 13th, Rajant 36th, Palaniswamy 40th); Dept. of Youth Empowerment Sports 'B': 2 (Mourya Thimmaiah 8th, Pranam Gowda 35th) drew with SAI STC: 2 (Pavan DR 13th, Hrithik Aiyappa 40th).

Indian men finish sixth

▸ India's men's team concluded their campaign in the Asian Table Tennis Team Championships in sixth place after a 0-3 loss to the Republic of Korea in the second classification match, reports PTI from Bhubaneswar.

The Indian women's team went down 2-3 to Hong Kong and ended their campaign in the event at the eighth spot.

Archery trials on Oct 19

▸ The Karnataka Amateur Archery Association will conduct selection trials to pick archers for the 42nd NTPC Sub-junior National Archery Championship in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, from November 22 to 30, reports DHNS.

The trials will take place at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium at 8:30 am on October 19. Archers born on or after January 1, 2008, are eligible to participate. Entries can be submitted T Anantharaju, secretary of KAAA by Nov 7. For details, contact: 22275656.

Ashwa Tokyo wins main event

DELHI RESULTS

S Nawab-trained Ashwa Tokyo, ridden by Vishal, won the Bangalore Turf Club Cup, the feature event of the Delhi races on Tuesday.

1. Kavery Plate - 1400M: Jet Falcon (Ajay Kumar) Vishal Shivhare 1; Girl Power (Varun) 2; Ashwa Jimbabe (AS Peter) 3; Mr Christopher (Vishal) 4; Wb: 3/4, Shd, 2L. T: 1:28.33. TB: Imdad Ali Khan. Fav: Ashwa Jimbabe.

2. Lalbagh Plate (Div I) -1000M: Bison (Master Racing) Lave Kumar 1; Ronaldo (Faizan Khan) 2; Danny's Girl (Narendra Kumar) 3; Alexander (Vishal Shivharej) 4; Wb: 2-1/2, Shd, 2-1/4L. T: 1:00.24. TB: SM Abbas. Fav: Bison.

3. Bannerghatta Plate (Div I) - 1200M: Tequila (Harisharan Devgan) Deepak Kumar 1; Golden Sun (Dhanu Deora) 2; Gama (Arjun) 3; Little More (Naresh Kumar) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, 4-1/4L, Shd. T: 1:14.45. TB: VS Parmar. Fav: Golden Sun.

4. Bannerghatta Plate (Div II) - 1200M: Heer (Amarjeet Singh) Shivam 1; Chieftain (AS Peter) 2; Maya (Varun) 3; The Mentalist (Md Talib) 4; Wb: 4-1/4, 2-1/2, 1-3/4L. 1:12.75. TB: R Kumar. Fav: Chieftain.

5. Bangalore Turf Club Cup - 1200M: Ashwa Tokyo (Ravinder Pal Singh) Vishal 1; Wonderful Lady (Yash Saini) 2; Angel In My Heart (Dhanu Deora) 3; Properly Posh (Vishal Shivhare) 4; Wb: 4-1/4, 2-1/4, 9-3/4L. T: 1:010.84. TB: S.Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Tokyo.

6. Lalbagh Plate (Div II) - 1000M: Ashwa Frankie (Ravinder Pal Singh) Narendra Kumar 1; Attenborough (Jai Parkash) 2; Big Bang (Vishal) 3; Viggen (M Hashmi) 4; Wb: 1-1/2, Shd, 1-1/2L. T: 1:01.44. TB: S Nawab. Fav: Ashwa Frankie.

7. Karnataka Plate - 1000M: Ashwa Harbir (Mrs Sanyogita Chauuan) Narendra Kumar 1; My Darling Bobby (Shivam) 2; Burning Desire (Aasif Khan) 3; Telekinesis (R.Rakesh) 4; Wb: 3, 1L, Nk. T: 1-01.26. TB: S.Nawab. Fav: My Darling Bobby.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 192w; 22, 13, 11p; Fc: Rs 4,319; Q: Rs 684; Shp: Rs 27; Thp: Rs 77; Tri: Rs 3,741 & 1,603; Ex: Rs 36,480 (c/o).
II race: Rs 36w; Rs 11, 17, 11p; Fc: Rs 168; Q: Rs 88; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 192 & 54; Ex: Rs 1,384 & 1,084.
III race: Rs 83w; 16, 10, 14p; Fc: Rs 194; Q: Rs 66; Shp: Rs 46; Thp: Rs 30; Tri: Rs 401 & 392; Ex: Rs 6,380 & 5,469.
IV race: Rs 74w; 17, 10, 12p; Fc: Rs 148; Q: Rs 48; Shp: Rs 42; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 235 & 177: Ex: Rs 937 & 635.
V race: Rs 17w; 11, 11, 11p; Fc: Rs 81; Q: Rs 69; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 33; Tri: Rs 67 & 22; Ex: Rs 318 & 258.
VI race: Rs 15w; 10, 10, 28p; Fc: Rs 49; Q: Rs 37; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 72; Tri: Rs 473 & 361; Ex: Rs 26,213 & 3,744.
VII race: Rs 36w; 19, 12, 27p; Fc: Rs 89; Q: Rs 46; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 52; Tri: Rs 391 & 301; Ex: Rs 17,946 (c/o) & 3,845.
Jackpot: Rs 13,052 (10). **Runner-up:** Rs 1,190 (47). **Treble:** Rs 135 (95).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's World Cup: England vs Pakistan **(3 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

1st Test: Pakistan vs South Africa **(day 4, 10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

CRICKET SECOND TEST

Indian players celebrate with the trophy after winning the two-Test series against West Indies in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Many gains, but a few cracks emerge

India complete series sweep vs Windies with 7-wicket win

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

It took a little longer than expected but India eventually completed a dominant seven-wicket win over a fighting West Indies in the second Test here on Tuesday, predictably wrapping up a 2-0 series triumph where they checked most of the boxes that augur well ahead of the tougher South Africa assignment next month.

Resuming at 63/1 in pursuit of a modest target of 121 on the final morning at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, it was just a matter of when rather than if. And that moment arrived exactly an hour into the day's play when KL Rahul (58 not out) comfortably punched Jomel Warrican for a boundary through the mid-on region to hand Shubman Gill his maiden series win as skipper that also extended India's stranglehold over the West Indies.

Having not lost a Test against the erstwhile powerhouses since 2002, this series, with no disrespect to the West Indies, was considered the perfect opportunity for guys like Sai Sudharsan and Nitish Kumar Reddy who couldn't flourish in the preceding five-Test series in England to hit their straps. For someone like Kuldeep Yadav, who didn't feature in a single game in Old Blighty due to combination issues, it was the right stage to show what a priceless asset he is.

Kuldeep, one of the star performers in a triumphant Asia Cup T20 tournament prior to this series, showed across the two matches why he's one of the best spinners in the world and deserves to be in the playing XI irrespective of what the conditions are. The left-arm wrist-spinner, a rare commodity, bagged four wickets in the first Test before bamboozling the West Indies in the first innings of the second Test with a 5/82—his fifth five-wicket haul in just his 15th Test. Three more scalps in the second bagged him the Player of the Match award; his turn, bounce and the natural ability to make the ball talk even on dead surfaces standing out at Kotla.

Following another failure in the first Test at Ahmedabad, pressure was mounting on Sudharsan and the talented 23-year-old southpaw made amends with a timely 87 in the first innings. A century would have been the perfect statement, but this knock will give him a much-needed confidence boost. Good hits in the Ranji Trophy or even in the games against South Africa A would be ideal preparation ahead of the Proteas challenge.

Batters KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill all got centuries this series, extending their good run from England. Rahul also exhibited his leadership qualities when his pep talk to the team during the first drinks break on the fourth morning had an effect in Ravindra Jadeja dismissing centurion John Campbell. It was not the first time Rahul has done that with the senior player often seen advising youngsters in 'nets' too. Given Gill is just cutting his teeth as captain, it's wonderful to see Rahul share the load.

Jadeja extended his purple patch with a Player of the Series performance. The 36-year-old all-rounder, named the vice-captain after Rishabh Pant failed to recover from his right-foot fracture, was brilliant with the bat, right on the mark with the ball and exceptional on the field.

That said, efficacy of India's bowling came under scrutiny on a flat Delhi pitch as two visiting batters cracked tons. Against a more equipped South Africa, this can prove costly.

Another player who made the most of this series was Dhruv Jurel. An understudy to Pant, the busy-looking UP player smacked a maiden Test century in Ahmedabad before making a punchy 44 here. He showed yet again that he's not just a sidekick but ready to perform the lead role when given an opportunity.

One trick India missed out on was in underutilisation of Nitish. In the pre-match press conference, Gill spoke about how India lacks a pace-bowling all-rounder and that the management is grooming Nitish for that role.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA (I Innings): 518/5 decl
WEST INDIES (I Innings): 248
WEST INDIES (II Innings): 390
INDIA (II Innings, O/n: 63/1):
Jaiswal c Phillip b Warrican 8 (7b, 2x4)
Rahul (not out) 58 (108b, 6x4, 2x6)
Sudharsan c Hope b Chase..... 39 (76b, 5x4)
Gill c Greaves b Chase..... 13 (15b, 1x4, 1x6)
Jurel (not out)..... 6 (6b, 1x4)
TOTAL (for 3 wkts, 35.2 overs). 124
Fall of wickets: 1-9 (Jaiswal), 2-88 (Sudharsan), 3-108 (Gill).
Bowling: Seales 3-0-14-0, Warrican 15.2-4-39-1, Pierre 8-0-35-0, Chase 9-2-36-2.
Result: India won by 7 wkts.
Series: India won 2-match series 2-0. **PoM**: Kuldeep Yadav. **PoS**: Ravindra Jadeja.

Shami takes a dig at selectors

KOLKATA, PTI: India pacer Mohammed Shami on Tuesday took a dig at the national selectors for omitting him from the white-ball tour of Australia, saying that his availability for Bengal in Ranji Trophy proves he is fit and it is not his job to update the panel on this.

"I have said this before... Selection is not in my hands. If there is a fitness issue, I shouldn't be here playing for Bengal," Shami said on the eve of Bengal's Ranji opener against Uttarakhand at the Eden Gardens. "I think I do not need to speak on this and create a controversy. If I can play four-dayers (Ranji Trophy), I can also play 50-overs cricket," he added.

Head Coach concedes schedule is hectic but hopes his players would cope

Gambhir plays it safe on Rohit, Kohli future

SIDNEY KIRAN
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Since Rohit Sharma was replaced by Shubman Gill as the captain of the Indian ODI team, starting with the series against Australia from October 19, the buzz around the veteran's future and his longtime colleague Virat Kohli has refused to die down. Questions have been repeatedly asked about whether the legendary duo are still in the 2027 ODI World Cup scheme of things.

India's head coach Gautam Gambhir, who celebrated his 44th birthday on Tuesday, was asked the same following India's 2-0 win over the West Indies and the Delhiite chose to play it safe. "The 50-over World Cup is still two and a half years away. It is very important to stay in the present. Obviously, they are quality players. They are coming back. Their experience is going to be valuable in Australia. Hopefully, those two guys can have a successful tour, and more importantly, as a team, we can have a successful series," said Gambhir.

The Australia series is another stop in what has been a hectic calendar over the last year with many players engaged in battles over multiple formats. When asked how challenging it is, especially for the likes of Shubman Gill and Jasprit Bumrah who play all formats, Gambhir hailed his wards for being thorough professionals.

"It is tough on players, especially when we are playing all three formats. But I thought that the best thing that happened in the series was the way the Test guys prepared actually before the series. Going to play the India A games against Australia was very, very important. And playing the Ranji Trophy before the South Africa series is going to be equally important as well. I thought that is something which this group of players have done exceptionally well.

"I think, yes, sometimes it is difficult, but that is what professionalism is all about. Try and use the days to the best of their ability because we know that there are very quick turnarounds, especially from here to one-day cricket, then T20 cricket, and then, what, after four days, back to Test cricket."

Poster boy

This was Shubman Gill's first series victory as a captain, although he's still finding his feet, Gambhir was full of praise for the current poster boy of Indian cricket. "I think no one has done him a favour by appointing him the Test captain or one-day captain. I think he deserves every bit of it. I think he's worked hard, and I've said it that he ticks all the boxes. And for me as a coach, I think someone who's saying the right things, doing the right things, working hard, with work ethics, commitment, putting his body on the line, being the first guy on the field, what more can a coach ask for?" Gambhir has often spoken about giving a long rope for youngsters and the coach said it's vital for a transitioning team.

"I think giving them a longer run is very, very important because, as we all know, international cricket is a very insecure environment because only 15 players can go on to represent the country, and there are so many people waiting for their opportunity."

Gambhir unhappy with pitch

Head Coach Gautam Gambhir made his displeasure clear about the Kotla wickets which remained unresponsive all along.

"I thought that we could have had a better wicket here. For me, I'm not thinking about, yes, we did get the result on day five, but again, I think the nicks need to carry.

"I think there has to be something for the fast bowlers as well. I know we keep talking about spinners playing an important role, but when you've got probably two quality fast bowlers in your ranks, you still want them to be in the game as well. There has to be carry.

"I thought the carry wasn't there, which was a bit alarming."

Heavy rain washes out SL-NZ fixture

COLOMBO, PTI

Sri Lanka and New Zealand shared points as their Women's World Cup match was abandoned due to persistent rain after strong batting performance by the hosts here on Tuesday.

Opting to bat, Nilakshika De Silva's belligerent fifty was the perfect antithesis to skipper Chamari Athapaththu's graceful half-century as Sri Lanka posted a challenging 258 for 6.

However, rain lashed the R Premadasa Stadium just before New Zealand began their chase and the match could not resume from that point.

After the washout, Sri Lanka continued to stay at the seventh place, having collected 2 points from four games while New Zealand, who now have 3 points, were static at number five on the table.

This is the second World Cup game that has been washed out with Sri Lanka's fixture against Australia also abandoned last week because of rain.

Earlier, Athapaththu (53 off 72 balls) was all class during her knock, stroking seven fours in an innings marked by control and elegance.

R Premadasa International Cricket Stadium. AFP

Nilakshika (55 not out off 28 balls), on the other hand, provided the final flourish with the fastest fifty of the tournament, whacking as many as seven boundaries all over the ground and a six.

Together with the young Vishmi Gunaratne (42), Athapaththu laid a solid foundation with a 101-run opening partnership. Hasini Perera also chipped in with a valuable 44.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 258/6 in 50 overs (Vishmi Gunaratne 42, Chamari Athapaththu 53, Hasini Perera 44, Harshitha Samarawickrama 26, Nilakshika Silva 55 n.o.; Bree Illing 2-39, Sophie Devine 3-54) vs New Zealand. **Result:** Match abandoned due to rain.
Today's match: England vs Pakistan.

Donald content despite his duck in Majors

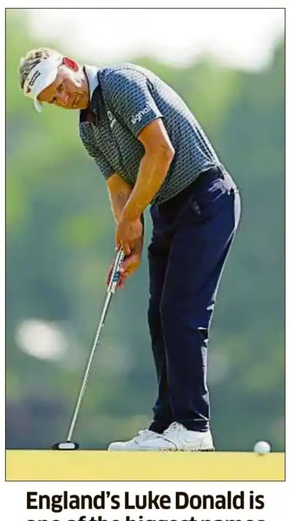
HITA PRAKASH
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Fans have fretted, felt frustrated and at times even supplicated the golfing gods to show mercy on the graceful Luke Donald - a player who holds a unique distinction in the world of golf. The clamour is understandable for, the Englishman is one of the only two golfers in the sport to have attained the world No. 1 ranking without winning a Major.

Fellow countryman Lee Westwood - the only other player with the same distinction - offers the 47-year-old some much-needed company to perhaps dodge or come up with a witty remark every time this question is hurled at them. At the DP World Tour India Championship here at the Delhi Golf Course (DGC), where Donald is one of the many showstoppers, he chose to answer the query with honesty and was reminded of the silver-lining.

"How would I summarise it? Yeah, obviously I worked very hard in my career to try and win Majors," said the seasoned golfer who topped the world rankings in 2011 and held the position for 56 weeks.

"Again, I came very close quite a few times, many top 10s and had some chances but never got it done. Yeah, certainly disappointing. But I think being World No. 1, it's a body of work for two or three years of really consistent results. Also to be able to say that I was the best golfer in the world for over a year...Certainly it's something I'm very proud of."



England's Luke Donald is one of the biggest names at the DP World India Championship which begins on Thursday. AFP

> **Yeah, certainly disappointing (not wining a major). But I think being World No. 1... Also to be able to say I was the best golfer in the world for over a year... It's something I'm very proud of.**
> **Luke Donald**

Keeping aside the individual brilliance of a long professional career for 24 years now, Donald recently became only the second European captain to win the Ryder Cup both at home and away after Tony Jacklin in 1985 and 1987. If capturing the trophy at Marco Simone Golf and Country Club in Rome, Italy in 2023 was pure elation, triumphing in a nail-biter at the Bethpage Black Golf Course in New York, USA two weeks ago was an assertion of their dominance.

"(As a captain) you're spending five or six weeks just thinking about all kinds of different things - partnerships, pairings, the golf course, the gifting...

"There's just so much that goes into it that your mind is kind of clogged.

"I've had many nights where I've woken up with Ryder Cup dreams where I had forgotten my radio one night and there's still one game out on the course and I was panicking and I was trying to get to the game. So coming here, playing a tournament will actually help get my mind back to playing and on what I need to do this week. It's a fun problem to have after a win in the Ryder Cup," explained the PGA Tour and DP World Tour player who has only competed in 11 events this year coming into this week.

And his first impressions of the iconic DGC - one of the oldest golf courses in India - aren't much different from most golfers. Donald said the course known for being compact makes it interesting and quipped: "A very unique sort of challenge this week, which again, I think for someone my age and how far I hit it, maybe is a good thing."

Muthusamy, Noman shine on 16-wicket day

LAHORE, AFP: The first Test between Pakistan and South Africa was set for a thrilling conclusion after rival spinners Noman Ali and Senuran Muthusamy wrought destruction on day three in Lahore on Tuesday.

Muthusamy took a maiden 10-wicket match haul to help bowl Pakistan out for 167 in their second innings on another day dominated by spin to give South Africa a target of 277 for victory.

But Noman, following up his 6-112 in the first innings, dismissed captain Aiden Markram for three and Wiaan Mulder (nought) to keep the visitors down to 51/2 at the close.

Ryan Rickelton (29 not out) and Tony de Zorzi, unbeaten on 16, fought till stumps with South Africa needing another 226 runs.

Pakistan need eight wickets for a 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

With the threatening spin duo of Noman and Sajid Khan the home team will fancy their chances.

As a gripping match approaches its climax, Muthusamy destroyed Pakistan with figures of 5-57 to add to his 6-117 while fellow spinner Simon Harmer took 4-51 as Pakistan lost their last six wickets for 17 runs.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 378 all out & 167 all out in 46.1 overs (Abdullah Shafique 41, Babar Azam 42, Saud Shakeel 38; Senuran Muthusamy 5-57, Simon Harmer 4-51) vs South Africa: (O/n: 216/6) 269 all out & 51/2 in 22 overs (Ryan Rickelton 29 n.o.; Noman Ali 2-20).

Senuran Muthusamy. AFP

India, Pak players exchange pleasantries

Moving away from the recent template set by the country's cricketers, the Indian junior men's hockey team players exchanged pleasantries with their counterparts from Pakistan in the Sultan of Johor Cup here on Tuesday, reports PTI from Johor, Malaysia.

In videos and photos that have gone viral, the U-21 players from both sides can be seen greeting each other and indulging in high fives, a far cry from the "no handshake" row that dominated headlines recently.

The gesture comes after the men's and women's cricket teams of India and Pakistan avoided handshakes.

Japan stun Brazil for maiden win

TOKYO, AFP: Japan claimed their first win over Brazil after roaring back in the second half to stun Carlo Ancelotti's side 3-2 in a friendly in Tokyo on Tuesday.

Luiz Henrique and Gabriel Martinelli scored as Brazil turned on the style in the opening 45 minutes, four days after thrashing South Korea 5-0 in Seoul. But Japan hit back after the break with goals from Takumi Minamino, Keito Nakamura and Ayase Ueda sending the crowd of almost 45,000 wild.

It was Japan's first win over Brazil in 14 attempts. It was also Brazil's second defeat since the Italian Ancelotti took over in May, following a 1-0 away loss to Bolivia in World Cup qualifying. Both Brazil and Japan have qualified for next year's World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Tanvi Sharma. BAI MEDIA

Tanvi, Unnati start strong

GUWAHATI, PTI: Medal hopefuls Tanvi Sharma and Unnati Hooda were among seven Indian shuttlers to advance to the next round of the singles event at the BWF World Junior Championships here on Tuesday.

Top-seeded Tanvi thrashed Poland's Wiktoria Kaletka 15-2, 15-1 in just 11 minutes while eighth seed Unnati eased to a 15-8, 15-9 win over Hong Kong's Liu Hoi Anna in 23 minutes. Rakshitha Sree R then overcame the challenge of Lucy Yang of Canada 15-5, 15-9 to get her campaign going.

In the boys' singles category, 11th seed Rounak Chouhan defeated Sri Lanka's Thisath Rupathunga 15-3, 15-6, 15th seed Suryaksh Rawat beat Yigitcan Erol of Turkiye 15-5, 15-8 while Lalthazuala Hmar got the better of Rylan Tan of USA 15-11, 15-5.

A few hours later, Gnana Dattu TT joined his teammates in the round of 32, beating Brazil's Joaquim Mendonca 15-10, 15-13. In the next round, Gnana Dattu will face Suryaksh for a place in the pre-quarterfinals.

The only reversal for India in the singles category came when Asian Junior championships bronze medallist Vennala K could not find her rhythm and went down 6-15, 5-15 against fifth seed Tonrug Saeheng of Thailand in the second round.

Indians struggle

Young Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty put up a spirited fight before going down in three games against France's Toma Junior Popov on a disappointing day for the Indians at the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament in Odense.

World No. 30 Shetty, who bagged his maiden Super 300 title at the US Open earlier this year, matched the 15th-ranked Frenchman shot for shot in a gruelling one-hour 17-minute contest before losing.

Anmol Kharb, went down to seventh seed Putri Kusuma Wardani.

Sahil brace sees Rebels home

BENGALURU, DHNS: Sahil Rashid Dar's brace helped Rebels FC edge Bangalore Dream United FC 2-1 in the KSFA Super Division League Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium here on Tuesday.

Sahil opened the account in the 28th minute to give his team a 1-0 lead. He then doubled the tally five minutes later to make it 2-0. Rodu Duo drew one back for BDUFC in the 59th minute but the Rebels saw the game through to take three points.

In the day's other games, Bengaluru FC had to settle for a 0-0 draw against Roots FC, while FC Bengaluru United beat Parikrma FC 1-0.

Results: Rebels FC: 2 (Sahil Rashid Dar 28th, 33rd) bt Bangalore Dream United FC: 1 (Rodu Duo 59th); BFC: 0 drew with Roots FC: 0; FC Bengaluru United: 1 (Lijo K 81st) bt Parikrma FC: 0.

Bangalore Dream United's Rodu Duo (right) battles for possession against Rebels FC's MR Pausonthang during a Super Division League championship match at BFS. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY

Padikkal boost for K'taka

Agarwal & Co kick off their campaign against nemesis Saurashtra

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

It is a tournament that Karnataka love but one that has not loved them back in the last decade. Karnataka's lack of success since the 2014-15 title has been disappointing, having not made a single final since.

As they head into their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy opener against Saurashtra at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot, the eight-time champions, led by Mayank Agarwal, look well-equipped to get underway with a bang.

For starters, Devdutt Padikkal, who flew in to Rajkot from New Delhi to join the squad last evening after being released by the Indian team management, will be among the main attractions along with the returning Karun Nair.

Padikkal is expected to open with Agarwal, while Smaran R, Nair, Shrijith KL and Abhinav Manohar are likely to share the batting responsibilities.

With Padikkal's inclusion, opener Aneesh KV might stay on the bench.

Karnataka will also hope that Nair still has the same hunger and motivation that he showed while turning up for Vidarbha. While the India call-up came his way after successful stints with Vidarbha, he may have something still to prove after being dropped just after one England tour.

Smaran's first season got off to a great start. For someone playing his maiden season, he finished as Karnataka's highest run-getter with 516 runs at an average of 64.50. It remains to be seen if he can overcome the second-season blues.

Karnataka do possess a solid blend of youth and experience and the task for coach Yere Goud will be to ensure the sum of the parts exceeds the individual talent.

The other major concern for the visitors will be their spin bowling. The lack of good spinners, who could support the fast-bowling arsenal, has been a void Karnataka have been looking to fill.

Shreyas Gopal did return last year after turning out for Kerala for one season and is expected to do the heavy lifting.

They have also picked off-spinner Mohsin Khan, who made his Ranji Trophy debut last year and left-arm orthodox Shikhar Shetty, from the U-23 talent pipeline. However, pace will be their strong suit, with Vyshak Vijaykumar and Vidwath Kaverappa the two obvious choices. They will also hope to maximise Venkatesh M's potential as a seam-bowling all-rounder, who adds depth to the side.

On paper, Karnataka may not be the hot favourites to win the Ranji Trophy this time, but as their recent Vijay Hazare triumph suggests, this is a side that thrives when not given a chance.

The squads: Saurashtra: Jaydev Unadkat (c), Harvik Desai, Tarang Gohel, Arpit Vasavada, Chirag Jani, Prerak Mankad, Yuvrajsinh Dodiya, Dharmendrasinh Jadeja, Chetan Sakariya, Parth Bhut, Sammar Gajjar, Ansh Gosai, Jay Gohil, Kevin Jivrajani, Hetvik Kotak, Ankur Panwar.

Karnataka (probable XI): Mayank Agarwal (c), Devdutt Padikkal, Smaran R, Karun Nair, Shrijith KL (wk), Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Venkatesh M, Vyshak Vijayakumar, Shikhar Shetty/Mohsin Khan, Vidwath Kaverappa.

Karnataka have received a boost in the form of Devdutt Padikkal after the Indian team management released him for the Ranji Trophy opener against Saurashtra. DH FILE PHOTO

KARNATAKA VS SAURASHTRA

- Matches : 12; Karnataka won: 2; Saurashtra won: 6; Drawn: 4
- Last 5 matches

2016: Saurashtra won by 4 wickets
2018: Saurashtra won by 87 runs in Rajkot
2019: Saurashtra won by 5 wickets in Bengaluru
2020:Match Drawn (Saurashtra 1st innings lead) in Rajkot
2023: Saurashtra won by 4 wickets in Bengaluru

- Other Group B fixtures (Round 1)

Kerala vs Maharashtra (Thiruvananthapuram); Goa vs Chandigarh (Porvorim); Madhya Pradesh vs Punjab (Indore)

COMPILED BY ARUN GOPALAKRISHNAN

What to look out for in Ranji Trophy 2025-26

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rishabh Pant is expected to return at some point this season for Delhi and prove his fitness, ahead of the home series against South Africa next month. India's Test vice-captain has been out of action since a Chris Woakes delivery fractured his toe at Manchester in July, and is under rehabilitation at the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Future stars

Karnataka's R Smaran, Tamil Nadu's Andre Siddarth, Yash Dhull (Delhi), Priyansh Arya (Delhi), Vaibhav Suryavanshi (Bihar, Plate group), Ayush Mhatre (Mumbai) among a host of other talented young batters will look to underline their red-ball credentials.

Harsh Dubey (Vidarbha) and Manav Suthar (Rajasthan), the breakout spinners from last season will look to stay in selectors' radar as long-serving Ravindra Jadeja, edges to closer to retirement after R Ashwin's departure last year.

Down, but not out

Karun Nair, Ishan Kishan, Prithvi Shaw, Sarfaraz Khan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Rajat Patidar, who have had a taste of Test cricket or came closer to it, would be keen reestablish their credentials.

Swansong

Mohammed Shami is on top of them, the pacer who was not too long ago was indispensable in the Indian pace attack but has been pacer has been confined to sidelines for a while now due to recurring knee injury.

At 37, Ajinkya Rahane's international career is all but over, but the veteran nurses one last hurrah.

(With inputs from PTI)

Nagini wins silver on final day

K'taka bag bronze in the women's U-20 4x400m relay

BENGALURU, DHNS

Nagini

Middle-distance runner Nagini bagged Karnataka's sole individual medal on the final day of the National Junior Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar on Tuesday. She clocked 2:52.26 seconds -- behind Haryana's Heena (2:50.69) -- to take the silver medal in the girls' U-18 1000m race.

Karnataka bagged another medal in the women's U-20 4x400m relay after the second-placed Punjab and the third-placed Kerala were disqualified for lane infringement. Karnataka, whose quartet of Vaishnavi Rawal, Isha Renjith, Geeta Choukashi and Saniya Moulali timed 3:59.93 seconds to finish last in the race, were upgraded to third place while Delhi (3:55.39) took the silver.

This was also Vaishnavi's third medal at the five-day tournament as she had earlier won two gold medals in the U-20 800m and 1500m events.

Results: Girls: U-20: 4x400m relay: Tamil Nadu 3:43.87s, 1; Delhi 3:55.39, 2; Karnataka 3:59.93, 3.
U-18: 1000m: Heena (Har) 2:50.69s, 1; Nagini (Kar) 2:52.26, 2; Janhavi Hirudkar (Mah) 2:52.75, 3.

Gukesh seeded top, Arjun second

NEW DELHI, PTI: Reigning world champion D Gukesh **(in pic)** will be the top seed in the FIDE World Cup, beginning in Goa from October 30, followed by compatriots Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa.

The tournament, which culminates on November 27, will see a collection of frontline stars and Netherlands' Anish Giri is seeded fourth.

The event carries a hefty prize purse of USD 2 million and will feature 206 participants from across the globe.

Apart from the attractive prizes on offer, the players will also vie for three spots in the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

The top three finishers in Goa will earn direct spots in the Candidates.

USA's Wesley So is the fifth seed followed by Vincent Keymer, Wei Yi, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Shakhriyar Mamedyarov and Hans Niemann in that order.

This year the men's World Cup is a separate event from the corresponding women's tournament, which was held in July and won by Divya Deshmukh.

The victory earned her the grandmaster title and a place in the 2026 Women's Candidates.

Iceland give France the chills

PARIS, AFP

Iceland's Victor Palsson (second from left) celebrates after scoring against France in their 2-2 draw during their World Cup qualifiers on Monday. AFP

Injury-hit France were held to a 2-2 draw by Iceland in 2026 World Cup qualifying on Monday, while Germany won in Northern Ireland with a Nick Woltemade goal and Belgium beat Wales to stand on the brink of a place at next year's finals.

France, World Cup winners in 2018 and runners-up in 2022, were without a host of players in Reykjavik including captain Kylian Mbappe and Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele, both out injured.

They fell behind to a Victor Palsson goal late in the first half, but Christopher Nkunku equalised just after the hour mark. Jean-Philippe Mateta then gave Les Bleus the lead midway through the second half. However, Iceland were back level almost from the restart as Kristian Hlynsson ran through unchallenged to make it 2-2.

Honduras beat Haiti

Honduras defeated visiting Haiti 3-0 on Monday in a CONCACAF regional World Cup qualifying match to seize the group lead and boost their hopes of reaching the World Cup.

Haiti entered the contest atop Group C in North American regional World Cup qualifying on goal difference over Honduras after a 0-0 home draw between the two last month.

Cape Verde erupts in joy

A carnival-like atmosphere erupted in the streets of Cape Verde's capital Praia on Monday after the tiny archipelago nation qualified for the World Cup for the first time, reports AFP from Praia (Cape Verde).

Honking horns and street fireworks greeted euphoric fans pouring out of the Cape Verde National Stadium following the 3-0 victory over Eswatini, which secured the Blue Sharks a place in the 2026 finals, to be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The five smallest nations to reach the FIFA World Cup are Iceland, Cape Verde, Paraguay, Trinidad & Tobago Northern Ireland.

India's qualification hopes dashed

MARGAO, PTI

Lallianzuala Chhangte. AIFF

India failed to qualify for the 2027 AFC Asian Cup after going down 1-2 to Singapore who rallied to humble the hosts with a brace from Korea-born attacking mid-fielder Song Ui-young in the third round qualification match here on Tuesday.

Lallianzuala Chhangte's 14th minute strike was cancelled out by Song's equaliser in the 44th minute, and then he struck what proved to be the winner, in the 58th minute.

The two teams were locked 1-1 at the half-time break at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, having played a 1-1 stalemate in the first leg in Singapore on October 9.

In the day's other Group C match, Hong Kong and Bangladesh shared the spoils after a 1-1 draw in Hong Kong, a result that did not help India's cause who entered the game with two points from three matches.

India were the dominant team in the first half and enjoyed the lion's share of possession initially, and it was appropriate that the home team scored the opening goal.

Chhangte received the ball some distance away from the edge of the box and unleashed an excellent left-footer that beat the Singapore goalkeeper on its way to the back of the net.

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